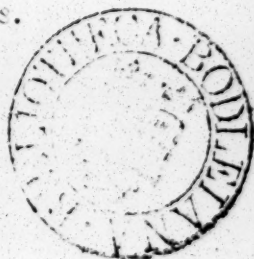


M E M O I R S
AND
A D V E N T U R E S
OF A
F L E A ;

IN WHICH ARE INTERSPERSED
M A N Y H U M O R O U S
C H A R A C T E R S A N D A N E C D O T E S .

I N T W O V O L U M E S .

V O L . I .



L O N D O N :
P R I N T E D F O R T . A X T E L L .
M D C C L X X V .

C O N T E N T S

O F T H E

F I R S T V O L U M E.

C H A P I.

*Contains the Birth of the Adventurer,
and some other necessary Anecdotes, in
order to introduce him into the grand
Theatre of Historical Notice, Page 1*

A 2

C H A P.

C O N T E N T S.

C H A P. II.

*Wherein I speak of most disastrous chances ;
Of moving accidents by flood and field ;
Of hair-breadth 'scapes in the imminent deadly
breach ;
Of being taken by the insolent foe
And sold to slavery ; of my redemption thence ,
And 'portance of my travels history ;
Wherein of antres vast, and deserts wild,
Rough quarries, rocks and hills——
It was my hint to speak.*

OTHELLO.

Page 20

C H A P

C O N T E N T S.

C H A P. III.

*I continue at the Barber's ;---play the Fool,
and meddle too deep in Love Affairs ;---
visit the World again ;---go to the Court ;
---but as you will find the whole Contents
of the Chapter by reading it, I will spare
my Preamble, and begin,* Page 49

C H A P. IV.

*Historical Account of Sir Gilbert Grub-
worm and my Lady, ---a strong Alterca-
tion for the good of the Nation ;---a Visit
from Dr. Sagely ; ---a strange Embar-
rassment, and several other accidental, as
well as incidental Affairs, render this
Chapter as truly valuable an Acquisition
as the former,* Page 72

C H A P.

C O N T E N T S.

C H A P. V.

Several very strong Altercations on account of Miss Grubworm ; --- the Knight gets the better ; --- Nurse proves Miss to be entirely innocent ; --- a Marriage proposed ; --- all made happy at last ; --- much like the Conclusion of a modern Comedy,

Page 107

C H A P. VI.

Change my Situation ;—sit at the Head of Affairs ;—make an Excursion into the Country with a strolling Company ;—a sudden Wedding ;—and several astonishing and momentous Affairs,

Page 131

C H A P.

C O N T E N T S.

C H A P. VII.

*Continuation of the Journey ; --- a Choice
of three for the bridal Bed ; --- Adven-
tures in the Night at the Inn, both tra-
gical and comical ; --- the House untiled ;
--- the Mastiff-Dog ; --- Justice not al-
ways clean ; --- in short, a great Variety
of interesting, and truly memorable Ac-
cidents ; --- the End of the Journey,*

Page 157

T H E



M E M O I R S
AND
A D V E N T U R E S
OF A
F L E A.

C H A P I.

*Contains the Birth of the Adventurer,
and some other necessary Anecdotes, in
order to introduce him into the grand
Theatre of Historical Notice.*

IT was in that season when
the face of nature re-assum-
ed her youthful appearance af-
ter the horrors of winter, that I
date my Birth. The critics must
excuse my being particular as to
the hour—The place I honour—

ed with my first approach into life I'll describe. It was not in a state chamber, nor in the first apartments of a palace; it was, blush for me courteous reader if thou can'st—in a garret, in which lay Susan and Rebecca—to whose natural warmth and florid constitutions, I in some measure owe my existence, and the Reader the pleasure of perusing this eventful history. The first sound I distinguished was the voice of Rebecca, calling loudly to her chum, and turning down the bed-clothes, not in the most decent manner, at the same time crying, Sue! Sue! what a plague will you sleep all day? we shan't have time to get our own breakfasts and the tea cups

cups fet, before our folks will be up—why, Sue, I say, do but look here, I am bitten to death; how has my poor back suffered since midnight: if I could but catch them, I would kill the devils; I could flea them alive. Patience, lafs, returned Sue—it is well if you have not committed murder as it is—Phoo, you fool, I can't catch them; then I am sure you have frightened them, replied Sue, and here are the marks of your triumph: ay, marry, what are those? why, you are both flea-bitten, and bitten again! ho, ho, ho, returned Beck, that may be true, lafs; to-morrow's shifting day, you know; not but I would

put on my last new dowlas to-day, if I thought Harry would be here in the evening; pish on him, he's a fickle varlet. But come, buffle girl, buffle: out she sprung, with her posteriors upwards; which I was afterwards told by my mother, entitled her to good luck all the succeeding part of the day; getting too near her leather boddice (for both myself and mother were quartered upon Beck) I narrowly escaped being squeezed to death on my first day's privilege of living; but a sudden removal pronounced our safety. Nothing material happened the whole day, except now and then a lusty scratch

scratch from Beck on the various parts I travelled over; which luckily did me no farther injury, than separating me oftener than I chose from the best of friends (my mother) who was giving me instructions for my new pilgrimage; not from Mecca to Medina, but from —pshaw! hang the only language I know that wants words, decent words, to describe the difference of soil and situation; the woods, water-courses, hills and vales, I was obliged to wander over, in terms that might not offend the modest ear, shock the delicacy of a prude, or the yet stricter virtue of an old maid in her grand climacteric:

nor can I even oblige my readers with a map of the country—a thing now of general use in books of travel.

The writers of a life ought to have the chastest pen. It is now called an apology for the life of Mr. and Mrs. Such-a-one—and I even want an apology for living at all, as I must say some of my brother and sister historians have done before me; but no matter for that; it will live as long as an insect like myself ought, or can be supposed to live; one way or other I shall be of public utility. I may some time or other have my papers useful in pastry-cooks

cooks shops, or in the yet more shining temple of that ever necessary goddess 'yclept Cloacina, if refused the desired admittance into the modern library of a more modern wit. But why don't you proceed? Patience reader! my life is short, and if dull and insipid as a new comedy, yet give me the indulgence of an hour or two like them; it is all I ask; then throw me aside like an old custom, and condemn me to the uses and base ends I have before mentioned.

Ten o'clock :—Breakfast over in the family, it was Beck's assignment to reconnoitre the

B 4 cham-

chambers, empty the full vases, and compose the œconomy of the beds for the ensuing evening. But oh ! what did I see ? Wretch that I am ! do I yet exist ? I saw a score or two of my ever-amiable kind, nipt to death between her unmerciful nails ; I revenged them to the utmost of my power with many a hearty twinge on her posteriors ; but she was too much like Trulla in Hudibras (you see I read) to fear a blow, though I frequently made the blood follow.

Three o'clock.—Dinner over above and below stairs, Roger and Thomas talked politics at dinner.

dinner, who being no more than an humble imitation of Sir Jacob Driveler above stairs, some thought porter made Roger frolicksome; he talked of untying Beck's garters: being there at that instant, I shifted my quarters: foreseeing my danger, I got once again to the verge of the boddice; it was well I did; and now I know the natural infirmities of the sex in point of resolution, I shall for the future keep a respectful distance whenever there is a proper occasion.

Tea over at six, and supper at nine, nothing material happened till bed-time; and then

B 5 abounded

abounded events in my strange story, that would make an agreeable collection for a novelist. To proceed: digressions, I know, are as tedious as advice in adversity. Supper-time over, Miss Annabella Waitfort's maid ill of the meagrim, Beck assisted as proxy; I wish there was no such thing as an old maid in the world; so does Mrs. Annabella I believe, poor soul! she frets enough upon the melancholy occasion, and I pity her, though the cause of many hours of disquiet to myself. Now, Reader — I know your thoughts; you will say, was she cruel? No. Proud? No. A man-hater? No. She was —
in

in short, she was never asked the question. Her family was something too good for her fortune, and her constitution too refined for her outward appearance. She was something deformed by a prominence on her left shoulder; rather unequal in her steps, by one leg being at least five inches shorter than the other; a defect a high heel to the right shoe could hardly conceal. It is reported, that her breath was not quite so sweet as Zephyr blowing on a bed of violets; she was obliged also, on account of her manly upper lip, to shave about once a fortnight, or oftener, if a birth-night or favourite rout inter-

ed, or if she made one at the queen of Taste's harmonic meeting. As to the coterie, she never tried to be ballotted in, being a pure virgin. And though her reputation was very dear to her, yet she often wished to lose the principal support of it, but in an honourable way, if possible.

Suppose the fair lady (in her fifty-third year) seated at her toilet, for the nocturnal labour of laying her different charms in separate boxes, till Phœbus had again inflamed the East some few hours the next morning; her teeth were deposited in a small trunk; her eye-brows
comb'd,

comb'd, and exactly folded up in oiled flannel to give them a natural gloss; the plaister for the face, with the carmine tinge, was constantly renewed; as she always slept in her usual mask, which happily peeled off in the night to give place for another next day. Every chink in the wainscot, washing-board, and floor, in the chamber, was cautiously secured, through a prudent fear, lest the mice should form a party, and begin with the good old lady's occasional faces before she had done with them herself. Her hair and grand tower were put upon a little smiling block, that looked to have an equal fund of
humour

humour with a milliner's doll. Indeed, the barbers have got into this foppish way of their blocks; for which reason, you will often see a learned divine, a skilful phyfician, a barrifter of law, a lord judge, and a mayor of a corporation, having an ornamental wig, displayed in full proportion, (I dare not fay with propriety) on a wooden head, that feems to look, but never thinks; and is as empty as a lover's wifh, or a great man's promife. Formerly, the fine gentleman and the beau let their head ornaments grace the fhop of a barber occasionally; now they wear their own hair, they difdain a wooden fubftitute,

tute, and carry real blocks, made of as unmeaning materials, on their own shoulders; which, by the addition of an insensible pair of eyes, a nose stuffed with rappee, a tongue without reason, a horrid grin that discovers a bad set of teeth, and a stinking breath, makes them very entertaining animals to the thoughtless of both sexes.

But to return to the lady, who is not very impatient, as I left her with an excellent glass of citron in her hand, to prevent her taking cold in changing almost totally her daily appearance.—“Beck!” “Ma’am?”
 “Did

“ —Did I look well to day ?”
 “ —Yes Ma’am.”—“ Indeed I
 “ thought so — Doctor Wife-
 “ acre and the Welsh curate
 “ eyed me all supper-time ; —
 “ well, well ; I wish they would
 “ speak about it—they are too
 “ low in family indeed —no
 “ fortunes but the pulpit and
 “ the bolus ; but I have been
 “ reserved too long ; I must
 “ degenerate, take an infe-
 “ rior person, and forget dis-
 “ tinction. Men marry no-
 “ thing but girls now, children ;
 “ mere children —I see my
 “ folly—I should have taken
 “ some inamorato sooner—
 “ living a vestal does not agree
 “ with me — my constitution
 3 “ requires

“ requires a husband, Becky,
 “ and one way or other must
 “ be had—though my brother
 “ expects my little affair should
 “ descend to his city wife and
 “ progeny—bless him ! he is a
 “ thoughtless man ; and, let
 “ our wants be ever so great,
 “ he is the last good friend in
 “ seeing them supplied — In-
 “ deed, I have been a great suf-
 “ ferer, by my too strict reserve
 “ and maiden-like deportment
 “ —snuff the candle girl.”—
 “ Yes Ma’am. But, Ma’am, did
 “ not my master advise you to
 “ go to Tunbridge for the wa-
 “ ters ?” “ Pshaw, nonsense !
 “ he is a weak man, Beck—it
 “ is not Tunbridge, nor Bath
 “ can

“ can be of service to me ; in
 “ short, I must send for a phy-
 “ sician different to any I have
 “ had yet, and discover my
 “ case to him. Oh ! heavens,
 “ what is here !”—At which
 instant she clapped her hand
 on her brown wrinkled neck,
 and caught my mother close
 prisoner. I flew from Beck’s
 handkerchief, where I then was,
 to her relief ; poor and insigni-
 ficant as I was, I bit her boldly,
 but in vain ; she kept her hand
 close till Beck secured my un-
 fortunate mother, gave her a
 fatal nip, and put her into a
 little delf sea of urine that
 stood under the toilet. I tried
 several times to leave Anna-
 bella,

in bella, but in vain; she was put to bed; I saw the curtain drawn round; what misery was before me! My dear parent destroyed; myself transported from Beck's healthful pasture, to a land as dry and barren as the Floridas, or some of our late truly valuable British acquisitions. Reader, one moment excuse me---if grief will permit---I will take one nod with the old vestal, and renew my tale.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

*Wherein I speak of most disastrous chances;
 Of moving accidents by flood and field;
 Of hair-breadth 'scapes in the imminent deadly
 breach;
 Of being taken by the insolent foe
 And sold to slavery; of my redemption thence,
 And 'portance of my travels history;
 Wherein of antres vast, and deserts wild,
 Rough quarries, rocks and hills——
 It was my hint to speak.*

OTHELLO.

FROM twelve till one the
 vessel slept; I could not
 rest for vexation above ten mi-
 nutes at a time. I travelled
 over

over the new land I was thrown on, and must own I disliked totally the whole face of the country; nor could I find one pleasant spot, even for a momentary residence; at last, out of pure spite indeed, I began to bite her eye-lids, chin, temples, and every part of her face I could get to, through the guardian wall of paint.—My severe twinges, and the effluvia of the paint getting through the pores of the skin, made her face excessive painful—at two she rung the bell—her woman got up, ill as she was—a pomatum mask was made to lay on her face, for fear of any severe injury being done to the exquisite fineness

fineness of her complexion; which being done, the woman retired, and the vestal composed herself; but ordered the chamber-door to be left half open, for fear she should call again.—What an hair-breadth escape had I! being near the extremity of her forehead, I was in imminent danger of being covered by her mask; but I escaped—perhaps, reader, you will say you wish I had not; but why so? though your patience might have escaped being quite tired, the world would have lost as valuable a history as one of the attic volumes of my dear sister Macaulay.—All historians are of a family; then
why

why may not I claim kindred ?
 —if my diminutive size is the
 objection, that is a trifle ; if
 none so small as myself, yet I
 hope you will allow others to
 be as entirely insignificant ; and
 that few, very few, escape the
 censure of the literati, or com-
 mand their applause so much
 as the above-mentioned lady :—
 she seems to glow with that
 truly Roman spirit that graced
 the breast of an antique Briton,
 in those happier days of uncor-
 rupted integrity, before the vote
 of a poor man was sold for a
 bribe—the honour of a great
 man for a seat in St. Stephen's
 Chapel—or his country for a
 place at Court. You see, gentils, a
 little

little heart like mine, that feels the generous swell of patriotic virtue, is truly animated, and every accent fired with the sacred theme ; I exist as heroic as Wilkes, and can declaim like the little Parson, who, like Doctor Squintum of late pious memory, has a carnal eye and a spiritual eye——and, whilst one beams benign to the temple of honour and friendship, the rendezvous of the first spirits of the age, the other casts a wishful look, even to the distant ken of ever-envied Lambeth ;—as if true dignity was confined to lawn-sleeves ; or if it was not better to breathe the air of this once-boast land of freedom, as
a pre-

a preserver of his country, a champion of her cause, or a destroyer of her rights, and despoiler of her charters?—But lest I make you imbibe the Pythagorean philosophy, and think there is a real transmigration of souls, that the cause of our desertion from every virtue, is, that insects now have nobler informed intellects than man—or lest I convince you, man, lordly man, fallen and degenerate as he is, may be taught to blush at the worth and guileless sentiment of an insect; I conclude my digression with saying, according to the spirit, the virtues, the worth, the hospitality, the generosity of old

VOL. I. C times,

times, I should have gloried to have been born a man-like Britton ;—but now—ay, what now ? —my old lady screams out,—rings her bell, and puts us all in confusion and uproar.—What can be the matter ? the devil quiet her, I say ; and I believe I do not speak for myself alone—but the second in command in a family, (sometimes the first) as well as in a state, will be obeyed.—Beck--Jane--where are my huffeys ? a spright ! a spright ! — Beck, Jane, Dorothy, I am ruined ! undone ! will nobody hear me ;—away ran the lasses to madam Annabella, almost as totally uncovered as the three fair candidates
for

for the golden apple : blefs me, madam ! what is the matter ?—the matter, madam ! why the room is haunted ; call up the chaplain, let us go to our devotions ;—not I, fays one, by my troth—nor I, fays another, by my truly ; the doctor is a middle-aged man, madam ; and to go as one now is—dear blefs us ! the flefh might be worfe than the fpirit, I warrant you : O ! what is that ! what is that on the ftair-cafe ! dear blefs us ! all as white as my fmock ! out they ran into the gallery ; the old lady, wanting her high-heeled fhoe, limped after ; when, to their furprize, the good doctor, a country lawyer, Mr. and

Mrs. Waitfor't, and all the men servants, ran wild about, and, by the repeated exclamations in Annabella's room, thought the house had been on fire ; at last one man (whom we will call Peter) held up the candle, and called out, a ghost ! a ghost ! lay it doctor—speak Greek to it for heaven's sake—quickly, doctor.—All were alike alarmed ; and what was the real cause ? the imaginary spirit was gone down stairs, and the good vestal was taken for the real one. An impudent Dane dog (not the only impudent dog in the world) belonging to the country lawyer, mostly white, and of a large size, was left asleep

sleep by the kitchen-fire, but having no great reason to commend the hospitality of the family, had taken the advantage of the night to prowl, like a wolf, for prey; when, on entering the old lady's chamber, he smelt the fragrance of the pomatum-mask, he thought he had found a prize, and plucking off the greasy morsel, was playing with it on the stair-case, where the maids saw the supposed spirit. The poor lady appeared to be (if I may use an Irishism) scalped on the face, on which remained the tint of the paint, the grease of the mask, wrinkles of the skin, and where it could be seen, a dark olive

complexion, which altogether made the lady perfectly frightful indeed. With the reflection of the candles,—all were alarmed at her; the poor lady was as much amazed at their astonishment, and, in the terror of her mind, forgot the recent horrors of her form; in short, it beggared all description; none but the pencil of an Hogarth, could describe the real ridiculous situation, as it then appeared; till at length they were relieved from their fears by the poor dog, who hearing his master's voice amidst this little confusion of Babel, (for every voice spoke, and every lap-dog barked) ran to his master

ter

ter with the mask in his mouth, made a total discovery of the causation of causes, and signed the truly mirthful catastrophe of this new and original comedy of errors.

Not to dwell too long upon one subject, suppose the fright over, the family once more composed in their several beds, myself still rioting on the borrowed sweets of Annabella, when I have wished a lover in my place ; and I believe her wishes and mine in this point were reciprocal—nine o'clock came ; day-light in all genteel families, rising from bed, Fidget came in and assisted : — Fidget was

her woman's name. But oh ! can I tell it ? do I survive the horrors of the storm ? I was caught, squeezed, put into a basin where the lady had washed with almond-powder, to be drowned ; but, as luck would have it, a small bit of the shell of an almond floated on the water, into which I had but just strength to skip, where I lay concealed for a time, in hopes yet to live to oblige the world with these truly valuable and interesting memoirs.

Eleven o'clock.—A Frenchman called with a leetle ivory coach, drawn by von flea, to the ver grande astonishment of
de

de peuple de Grand Bretagne, who are ver curieux in dere observations on dis furprising animal; and what is more great wonder, it has amazed the whole Royal Society of London; by gar, the prish is but von leetel shelling von person.—In short, he was introduced, when to Monsieur's great mortification he found, on opening his box, his flea dead with being too strait laced in his mimic harness; he runs out to Beck, my dear madame, they tell a me you be von fille de chambre, vill you get a me von leetel flea a live, and me will make you von presente of von English half-crown; be ver quick; me

be be in von grand confufion ;
 me fall lofe mon ver great re-
 putation amongst the Englifh
 virtofos ; be ver quick, my pret
 maid, and you fall fee vat me
 vill do. Up runs Beck, finds
 me ftill alive, and, to his great
 joy, fells me to monfieur for de
 half Crown.—In fhort I was
 harneffed ; a red rag was put
 to my feet, in which my fmall
 legs naturally hung ; and he,
 pulling a ftring tied to the rag,
 dragged me along, and made
 me haul his curfed joy after
 me for a quarter of an hour, to
 the great amazement of fix
 thoughtlefs fpectators, who
 wondered at monfieur's great
 wit and fagacity, in tutoring fo
 fmall

small an animal to so great perfection ;—when, oh credulous believers ! when that was the very first hour of my redemption from the perilous flood, and being sold to slavery, how much would the tuition of a moment instruct me. I bid farewell to Mr. Waitfor't's, with the little Frenchman ; we traversed many streets, called at several genteel houses, and were as genteelly received ; so much was the general astonishment of the wonder-loving people of Great Britain.—One said I ought to be presented to his M——, who loved curiosities ; another, that I ought to appear at the public exhibitions in Spring-Gardens ;

—a third, (a son of Galen) infinitely surpassing the rest of my admirers, particularly, advised my master to make me a present to Crane-Court, where I might amaze the virtuofos of the age, and be enrolled amongst the ever valuable collection of the Royal Society, during my life; and, at my decease, (could he know the unfortunate æra) he would himself (he said) immortalize my memory, and anatomize me for a skeleton, to be deposited in the British Museum; and he did not doubt, as the poets were now very numerous, mostly grave, moral, sententious, wit and humour being entirely banished from the

press and stage, as being twin-brothers to immorality and profaneness, though not in the least related, or even acquainted so far as a tea-visit;—this preciseness makes our comedy inoffensive in the representation, and most excellent opiates for a winter's evening in the closet; the best lullabys in the world;—(as to sense and diction I do not meddle withal; those I leave entirely out of the question)—but to the purpose: those modern writers, chiefly delighting in elegiacal compositions, might be prevailed on to write a very pathetic monody on this surprising little animal;—some may be partial, and weep; others

thers may take an opiatical wink or nod on the occasion ; but various men various minds : the Frenchman then pulls out his box, on seeing which the other exclaims, rappee, do you take rappee ? taste mine ; what do you call this, Monsieur Taster ? —fort bon—ver good, en verité ! excellent ! me was never take better—me would like such chaque moment de ma vie ; —he then puts his hand in his pocket, and draws to view a skeleton of a handkerchief—ver much oblig'd—you recommandez Monsieur ! de grand physician can do ver much vid the grand patient in my favour, if de grand patient no die and
get

get out of his hands; much oblige en verité. [*Exit Monsieur, bowing very low.*]

The doctor, after a little review, opens his box for another pinch, when, to his great surprise, he missed a six-and-thirty shillings piece which he had deposited in the regions of snuff for safety.---Having been twice out of town that morning, in order to take the air himself, and to make his neighbours believe he was of infinite consequence in the physical world, and having been robbed of twenty guineas on Hampstead-Heath but two days before, he had taken this useful caution
of

of reserving only silver in his purse ; added to this loss, he was also extremely near and miserable ; nor could he be ranked as a first-rate physician, either in consequence, fortune, or appearance -- had sagacity enough, however, to discover Monsieur's pinch had the essence of gold as well as violet---to repair his loss therefore, in part, instead of a dish of turtle or fowl, he sat down to dinner at three o'clock on the second edition of a leg of mutton hashed in broth ; and, to set his whole family a good example, said he could not eat ; but that it was sometimes not unwholesome, to be sensible of a loss of appetite, as it corrected

rected the juices, was an astringent to the nerves, and gave people proper time to unload the overcharge of the stomach, by totally voiding (before the renewal of food) the whole compound of excremental combustibles : wind indeed might be the consequence of an extraordinary evacuation ---- but it might also be parted with, excluded by explosion, when in its extreme fury, to the great easement of the stomach, and the whole fundamental parts in general ; and so---John, bring me a pipe---and, do you hear the news--curse the French, I say --I wish I had never seen their learned flea --- that an uninstructed

structed peasant, as I may call him, should play me such a trick—it was a palpable cheat --one would have thought he had studied physic, or taken out a diploma without any study at all.---Oh! the news---shut the door John--what is here, letters from 'squire Wilkes and parson Horne to the end of the chapter; phoo! here is a defendibus and a circumbendibus --what is all this to me? --- no more than my lord North or my lord South, or my lord any body else; what is a lord to me, but when he wants a physician? --Politics! d—n politics! the news of the alley, indeed, or the weekly bills, to see how my
 brothers

brothers have increafed or decreafed their patients, were well enough ;--but we have nothing in the papers but politics or cuckoldom, or a d——n dry description of madam Cornelys's carraway-comfit feaft ;--though, by the bye, ſhe is a good friend to the doctors ; the blifters and the glifters, the draught and the bolufes, and ſometimes the pills, are the natural confequences of her ſcenes of midnight revelry d——n the little Frenchman ---odfo, well thought ; John, bring out my chariot——old Squeezum the brushmaker, near Smock-alley, in the city, is dying ; he cannot, in the courſe of nature live twelve hours, and
if

if he should die before I pay him another visit, I lose another fee, and in all human probability my last fee ; --- not that I think his wife would regret much the loss of the money, if he were dead before I came.---She is a prudent woman, and knows the world---these cits pay very well, as their extortions frighten them most damnably ; they pay for advice in a wholesale way, though they sell in retail ; and will swallow physic as cordially when sick, as they will swallow wipt-cream and cheesecakes in their walks at Whitsuntide---d---n the French, though--a servant runs in--hey ! what, you come without

without manners, Sir.---Sir, I had forgot, lady Dy-Faddle desires you would be with her at six, to consult about embalming her monkey in the Egyptian way ; --- you know Sir, it died of a cold, and she fees no company ;---she sends word she dies till she fees you ;---for she believes it is to lie in state next week---well, well, I will go---lie in state ! strange infatuation ! but, probably, it is not the first monkey that has come to that honour, though he found it as difficult as some other very great folks (that would be) to get a coat of arms for his escutcheon.---But, Sir, as I told you before, she dies till she fees you ;
and

and she may die when she does fees me, if I get any thing by it.---Odso; well, well, let the cit die in peace then; what care I for the loss of a man, if I can get more by a monkey. John, drive towards Soho;---in jumped the doctor; --- the old chariot cried out peccavi in a sorrowful creak; smack goes the whip, and the two poor old mares shamble on at the humble rate of three miles an hour.

Perhaps you may ask me, how I heard all this? I will tell you; my little French master, in his haste to get out of the house, dropt me in the hall, by the parlour-door, where I overheard

heard it all ; nor dared he make a demand of me till the doctor had drove off ; when, trusting to the doctor's prudence in never telling a tale to a servant he might think would only occasion a laugh, he ventured to enquire for me, where I was immediately found, to his great satisfaction ; though, after what had happened, I think nobody but a Frenchman could have had the effrontery to have asked for me at all. In short, we went to his lodgings at a barber's and perriwig-maker's, up three pair of stairs ; when, being nearly arrived at the top, his foot slipped, and down he fell upon the dining-room landing-place,

place, broke his coach entirely to pieces, and unharnessed me, in order to replace his little materials, when luckily the barber's boy, taking hold of my chain, broke my collar, and set me once more at liberty ; --- I instantly skipt upon his shoulder, where I recovered a protection in the dirty folds of his neckcloth, and was once more redeemed and rescued from the most perilsome captivity.

Now, reader, if thou hast any short occasional affair to do, dispatch it with all possible haste, and begin the next chapter.

C H A P. III.

*I continue at the Barber's ;---play the Fool,
and meddle too deep in Love Affairs ; ---
visit the World again ;---go to the Court ;
---but as you will find the whole Contents
of the Chapter by reading it, I will spare
my Preamble, and begin.*

I Remained at the barber's nine days ; I reveled on the beds when I pleased, unmolested ; as cleanliness was not one of the virtues that deigned to grace the ease-loving mistress of this seldom disturbed mansion.

I lived on Robin, the apprentice ; sometimes on Jane, the daughter ; sometimes on---

in short, I lived in pleasure and luxury, and passed my time very joyous amongst a numerous set of companions ; --- we had all the follies, and most of the vices of the age ; we had our coteries, our assemblies, our galas, our court-days, and every sensual satisfaction, to the highest perfection ; and as for our constancy in love affairs, there we rivaled the human world ; there was not a black beau of the whole tribe, but what had a little seraglio ; nor a female, but what had a score of gallants at her private service ; indeed, we had no court of judicature, or mercy on many a poor discovered offender ! what damage
would

would our little black husbands have procured? for, in truth, I must say, we were almost as wanton as the votaries of love are at present in the great world; but I am myself a lover and beloved; no vestal, but an errant willing female, subject to all the frailties of my sex; how then, as a moral sentimental writer, can I be severe on the occasion? how shall I load my page sufficiently with proper reflections? how bring vice and virtue to a laudable contrast? I cannot do it: I must leave it to some abler pen:---but, if I instruct not, yet will I not offend, by telling you repeated stories of my love adventures, after the

manner of most of our modern novels, which are filled with nothing else. I could please you by taking you out of one continued beaten path, to numerous fresh inroads, though they might be less entertaining; a very few years have supplied us with dying memoirs enough to charm the successive inamoratos of a century; if I can but please, I am content as to the rest; and, if novelty is my only merit, let me be accepted, only till a more happy rival shall dethrone me. Indeed, the effects of love are now visible on me; and, as I am advanced six days in my pregnancy, it is plain I have not been too rigid to the
little

little tops.---Hark ! is not that Robin below, the Alderman's valet ? It is the same ; what can he want ? I have heard much of the good, the affable, the generous, the laurel-claiming patriot ; the friend, the virtuous friend, of the human kind ; I have often wondered how man, the lordly king of the fair globe, could ever degenerate into worse than insect meanness for reward, when such true honours grace the sons of undefiled integrity---that praise that seems to soar beyond the tongue of man, that claims its source from heaven ; that dies not with the form, but, like the soul, immortal, exists to different ages

on the loving tablets of every grateful mind ; --- even their tombs (the dumb preservers of their sacred relics) are honoured to posterity.---So much for morals.---I must see this Briton with a Roman soul ; ay, the very wig is dressing. In short, I went down stairs on the cat, whose guest I then was, gave her a hearty twinge by way of a spur, who immediately leaped upon the chair, from whence I had an easy skip to Robin, which I very soon effected, and from thence I leaped into the close recesses of the umbrageous wig, which was soon hung upon a supporter in a little wooden box ; a kind of sedan, ladies, where

where I was carried as gay as yourselves ;---but what I esteem the most valuable incident of my life, was the being ushered into the dressing-room, which contained this modern wonder ; where, with the wig, I was taken out of the box, which might be compared as an island or a nation to the whole globe ; ---the wig being a very inconsiderable part of the covering of that ever glorious patriot.--- You will doubtless allow me to be a geographer as well as an historian ; and I do not know, but I may calculate nearly as well as some of my wiser brethren have done before me. At last we arrived at the palace,

when my impatience soon subsided ; I saw the land of unmeaning bows and pleasureless smiles ; where the servile cringe of the courtier, would in vain assume the ever cordial, the sentimental beam of friendship :--- how languid, poor and insipid ! where common-place civility only flows from the tongue, and scarcely animates the deceitful sentiment ; where professions are as numerous as the stars, yet as far from the light as the centre ; where envy wears the mask of beauty to deceive, and vice the garb of virtue to betray : but when I looked on the patriot, and considered well the cause of his appearance there, that

that his voice was the voice of nations, and that the prayers of millions hung upon his tongue, how was I staggered and amazed at this reception; I meddle but little with politics, nor am I acquainted with the latent causes of the movement of the great; and indeed, when I reflect that all mankind are born to error, ought I to wonder that the same eternal hand that guides the peasant, will also guide the king; and give or refuse the radiance of the light to direct the judgment to that steady management of human affairs, that, like Solomon, he may rejoice in the wisdom of his deed! or that he can cast a sable cloud over the

intellects, that his voice only
 can ever disperse. Be that as
 it may, all have not their happy
 hours; nor is the just man ever
 freed from contempt, though
 honour encircled his head like a
 coronet, and virtue beamed on
 his breast beyond the fainter
 lustre of a star. To end the
 visit at once, the patriot return-
 ed in contempt; those whom
 he styled the betrayers, smiled
 in derision at him as he past,
 and thought themselves blest in
 the littleness of his influence:--
 even the once-admired Augusta,
 the queen of cities, like ancient
 Rome, reduced to modern
 nothingness, bowed her head,
 and wept. Britannia still the

guardian of her greatness, bid her yet be cheered, and hope for fairer hours, when honour, with his golden trump, should awake her sons to the remembrance of their former virtues ! The patriot had one satisfaction in passing through the court to his carriage ; he received the applause of thousands ; unborrowed gratitude, and unhired applause ! --- the untaught sensibility of the people roused the patriot with yet keener pangs.-- Yet, says he, yet will I destroy these blood-suckers of the land ! ---I thought he mentioned me and my ancient race ; stung with rage, I flew into the orifice of the fount, and beat a tattoo in

his head ; he was much alarmed at my insect daring, and returned from the palace to his house as literally as mentioned in our public prints, with a flea in his ear. --- As soon as I perceived my mistake, I hurried out, and sat penfive on his neck-cloth, which he changed in a few hours, with me upon it ; when I, unseen, was packed up amidst a great quantity of foul linen, and in the space of four days conveyed to the care of Mrs. Suds, a lady famous for recovering lost whiteness. The day of purifying being come, I was conveyed to the wash-house ; saw the copper boiling ; heard the women scolding ; the maids
singing

singing doleful anthems to my exit, in all the tragic pomp of fame-refounded heroes; I was to die; nay, so sure was I of inevitable fate, I began, like a condemned criminal, to view with moderate composure, the nearer and more stern approaches of terrible death; in short, one end of my winding-sheet, the neckcloth, was put into the foaming-tub, white with the clarifying soap; when, on a sudden, my she-executioner began to yawn, and wish for tea-time, as warmly as a devotee for the hour of devotion. Tea-time formerly killed a tedious hour with the polite world,—where chit-chat was wit; imperti-

pertinence, freedom and good breeding; where scandal lisp'd baneful as the tongue of the adder, and the defamation of the absent circulated with spirit and uncommon electricity thro' a genteel circle. Now it is become of stronger use, it is made an essential requisite, even in the lowest sphere—I mean a requisite to life—for many an honest pains-taking woman could as soon abandon gin and low spirits, as this Chinese vegetable species of idolatry night and morning.—But to proceed; she groaned, and wished it was tea-time, and leisurely pulled out a snuff-box, almost the only thing we like now that bears the least relation

relation to the Tweed:—right Scotch, Mrs. Scourum: won't you refresh a little?—mighty good, indeed, Mrs. Suds!—but you that wash for all the quality, knows what's what, as I may say—or who should know—dear blefs us, how it makes me--sneeze--ay, ay; it is a little of Rowley's British herb that makes it so strong; ---I take it to make me long-lived (*sneezes*). --Ever since the Duchefs of Somerset recommended it to make people live long and see double (*sneezes again*)——you know that there was a paragram in the news-paper about it; and you know it must be true, because it was printed; ay, that it must

must for sartain ; for your news-
 writers now see every thing ;
 they take of Rowley or Evans,
 I warrant 'em, or they would
 know no more tnan other peo-
 ple ; but I cannot afford it Mrs.
 Suds ; for my part, I have al-
 ways been a hard-working wo-
 man ; I have had fix husbands
 and nineteen children, all born
 alive, and I do not care who
 knows it ;---we ought to take
 pains in this life, for we was not
 born to be idle ; no truly, Mrs.
 Scourum, we were not : indeed
 I never was married, but I know
 the whole business of a family
 life without it.---Let me see ; I
 have been at different times
 house-keeper to thirteen single
 gen-

gentlemen, therefore it must be supposed I know how to manage matters as well as the best of them.---I hate your ignoranimus that know nothing, and scorn to be taught; for my part, I was always willing to learn all I could; and the best edification can say no more.---So one is but willing to do as one is bid, it is every thing, Mrs. Scourum.---At pronouncing the last word, a violent scream was heard to proceed from Betty and Judy, the two maids, who had listened to this matron's sublime conversation; whilst, for want of fresh supply of water, the bottom of the copper was burnt out, and all
the

the clothes, that underwent the operation of boiling, were burnt to a cinder. This terrible disaster threw them all into the utmost confusion and distress; at first they ran about wild as the witches in Macbeth, till their first frenzy abated, which lasted long enough to let every rag be entirely consumed, when water was prudently thought of as a proper extinguisher to the fatal element of fire.---Several helping hands came in upon them, amongst the rest, an impudent young fellow, a servant at the next door---to a rich politician, was one; he pulled out the neckcloth to slap Judy over the face with the wet end of it; and,
in

in his play, disengaged me from the folds of the mullin, which made me once more a free Briton; when I leapt upon Mr. Robert, and sat again at my ease upon a half-shirt he wore to keep his whole one clean in a morning, till he waited at dinner, commonly called the lacquey's sham;--well, I went home with Robert to Sir Gilbert Grubworm's, an elegant house, entirely well furnished, and, as times go, as well inhabited. As the owner of the house was a patriot, a politician, a virtuoso, a sworn foe to the Dutch, and as violent an enemy to the Scotch, -- who, he swears, have made constant invasions upon South-Britain,

Britain, ever since Jamie taught them the method in the year fifteen ; and what they could not conquer with their sword, they have effected with their tongues, most of which are hung in the silver key of well-tuned, and ever-welcome flattery : some assert they now rival the Irish, with the ladies, in the most pleasurable qualifications of life ; and that the drone of the bag-pipe, well-tuned and ornamented, is more than equal to an Irish lilt. I am no judge of music, and therefore cannot determine ; but this I know, or at least have heard, that several ladies, and some amongst them of great distinction, have owned

(sans

(*sans flatterie*) that their instruments are entirely delectable, and greatly preferable to the soft, languid, dulcet sounds of Italian harmony, who rather compose the senses, than wake them to perfect enjoyment. All I have to say is, that experienced dames of fifty, are best able to give instruction to a future age of British maids, who are mostly so chastely old, as never to think of pleasurable amusements till turned of thirteen: but it grows late; I am half asleep; and I believe, reader, thou art in the same comfortable situation; suppose I oblige us both, and shut up the historic page of this sentimental memoir; so shall I
awake

awake with new vigour to write the next chapter, and you to read it; through which friendly consideration I lay down my pen for a time. — Odsso, well thought! one thing must be done before I close the chapter; --I have given the knight's character, I will just touch the outlines of the lady; --she was married to the knight in the year fifty, being then twenty-seven only; still a beauty in her own opinion, she continues childish, pettish, vain, immoderately fond of her own opinion, without common talents to form one; loves admiration as well as ever, and, some say, laments too feelingly the decaying faculties of
the

the knight, who was at this time sixty-seven, and no very stedfast votary to the altar of Venus. I have said enough ; — a word to the wife is sufficient.--Adieu.

C H A P.

C H A P. IV.

Historical Account of Sir Gilbert Grubworm and my Lady,---a strong Altercation for the good of the Nation ;---a Visit from Dr. Sagely ; ---a strange Embarrassment, and several other accidental, as well as incidental Affairs, render this Chapter as truly valuable an Acquisition as the former.

EIGHT o'clock in the morning, I left the garret with Mr. Robert; being got into a new family, curiosity (you see by this I am a true female) would not let me enjoy the agreeable disorder on the bed, but while he was employing himself in putting on a clean
 sham,

than, though, by the bye, the dirty one was by far the most comfortable to one of my sickly mould, I sat on his ear; yet I resumed my place on the clean one, where I sat perched to see all, hear all, and tell all, with gossip-like impatience.

The scene opened at nine; Sir Gilbert, lady Grubworm, and the young Miss Sophy at breakfast; Robin and I waited; lady Grubworm exclaimed, Bessy! here's news, girl! odso; odso; we shall have a turn of times.—
 “It is said a great personage,
 “once in England, is going to
 “reside in Germany.”—Well,
 well; it's well it's no worse—
 Gad, it will do—for look'ee,
 VOL. I. E Bessy,

Bessy, if that is the case, my Lord of B——, will continue abroad, and the Scotch influence will be greatly abated : how my blood rises at the name of a Scotchman !—I am all in a ferment at the thought ! — What execution had I done, if I had led an army at the battle of Culloden ! — zounds ! I should have so peppered, and so belaboured them ! — what, with papa's great gun, mamma ? — hush, Sophy ! hush, child !—not a word ; when papa and I are talking on state affairs, not a word, Sophy !—where's your doll ? Dear mamma, I never look at dolls now ;—why I was thirteen last Martlemass, and folks say

say I'm too big for it. I'm sure
 Miss Harriet Rompish was but
 fourteen when she run off to
 Scotland with Thomas, the pos-
 tillion ;—sure I ought to know
 when people begin to be women!
 — Nay, and she told me but
 two days before she went
 off, she had wanted a husband
 for two long years together ;
 and I'm sure two years is a long,
 long time, papa, to wish for a
 thing before one can come at it.
 --The knight seemed astonished
 at his daughter's ripening capa-
 city, and rolled a pair of round
 uncommon large eyes at my
 lady, as a token of wonder ;
 some people would call it gog-
 E 2 gling ;

gling ; but I detest all vulgar expressions.

But lest the reader should entertain a ridiculous idea of the knight, who really was a very respectable person, and almost half a patriot, I must relate Sir Gilbert's amazement, and his observations on Miss Sophy's expressions : “ Do you hear, my
 “ lady ! why the girl's spoilt ;---
 “ I am amazed—to Scotland !
 “ —confound the Scotch again,
 “ say I !—how they plague us !
 “ —why that same marriage-
 “ act was made instrumentally
 “ good for them ; — and when
 “ they cannot sufficiently plague
 “ us at home, egad they marry
 “ us,

“ us, and set a mark of ven-
 “ geance on us all our lives
 “ after !” — “ Fy, Sir Gil-
 “ bert ! — do not talk so disre-
 “ spectfully of marriage, my
 “ dear ! — you should consider
 “ my virtue and tendernefs, Sir
 “ Gilbert,—and, blefs heaven,
 “ the mark of vengeance was
 “ not set over your own door.”
 — “ Well, well, my lady, if you
 “ encourage her, I have done.”
 — “ Worse and worse, Sir Gil-
 “ bert ; has she not my exam-
 “ ple ! my lessons of strict de-
 “ corum ! my aversion to levi-
 “ ty ! --- does she ever see me
 “ carefs any male animal, but
 “ poor cupid, my little pug-
 “ dog ; and poor pug is castrat-

“ ed--that was your cruelty, Sir
 “ Gilbert, to prevent him from
 “ running after little canine
 “ Venus’s, and dirtying the ce-
 “ dar stair-case with his feet !”
 --- “ Zounds ! my lady, I am
 “ talking of my daughter ! the
 “ devil take pug, and every
 “ puppy in England, I say.”---
 “ Nay, my dear, I was only il-
 “ lustrating my own example.”
 --“ Pox of your examples, ma-
 “ dam --- you put me out of
 “ patience ;” --- “ and so much
 “ good news, Sir Gilbert, this
 “ morning”-- “ pox of the news
 “ too, madam, not one syllable
 “ of it is confirmed ;”-- “ why
 “ no, my dear ; that is true, in-
 “ deed --Sophy, be a good girl,
 “ and

“ and don’t so much as think
 “ of a man these ten years :---
 “ what, would you make me
 “ a grandmother in the very
 “ noon-tide of my life ! ---
 “ why there was parson Index,
 “ little doctor Gripum, and cap-
 “ tain O Killum, laid a wager
 “ yesterday, I was but two-and-
 “ thirty ; and men of judg-
 “ ment too, that know that I
 “ do not like flattery, and are
 “ not ignorant what is to be
 “ said or done to a woman that
 “ has seen the world, and knows
 “ what is what.”--- “ I believe,
 “ my lady, their flattery pro-
 “ cures them a welcome to our
 “ table at dinner, three times a
 “ week. Not that I am jealous ;

“ but do not you think that
 “ half a dozen ladies, who
 “ would give you the history
 “ of the whole world in half
 “ an hour, would be as suitable
 “ society for my lady Grub-
 “ worm, as a parson without a
 “ living, a doctor without a pa-
 “ tient, and a captain without
 “ a company ?” — “ Very fati-
 “ rical, indeed, Sir Gilbert !
 “ spoke like a true, downright
 “ English husband, that would
 “ shut up his spouse with a par-
 “ cel of filthy housewives, that
 “ make conserves, raise paste,
 “ feed the poultry, darn linen,
 “ mark old shirts, and now
 “ and then condescend to mend
 “ their husband’s breeches ! —
 “ No,

“ No, no, Sir Gilbert, thank hea-
 “ ven, my education was above
 “ such little, low, dirty concerns
 “ of a family !—let my house-
 “ keeper mind it ;—she is paid
 “ for it ; --and as for conversing
 “ with men, I am obliged to it ;--
 “ women want sentiment, me-
 “ taphor, oratory, attic spirit—
 “ in short, every thing I want
 “ myself, I am determined to
 “ find in others. Men, that
 “ is, the men I chuse to con-
 “ verse with, have parts fit to
 “ entertain a woman of my
 “ faculties ; —and let me tell
 “ you, Sir Gilbert, no men but
 “ what have extreme good parts
 “ indeed, are esteemed conse-
 “ quential enough for my par-

“ ticular notice ; — parts are
 “ every thing with me, Sir Gil-
 “ bert ; — I have such refined
 “ notions that way, that to me,
 “ a man without solid substan-
 “ tial parts, as I may say, is worse
 “ than a woman !”---“ Zounds,
 “ madam ! you have put the
 “ tea into my shoe !”---“ Well,
 “ why will you provoke me
 “ into a ferment then ? I do not
 “ know what I do ; come, come,
 “ it is never the worse ; — the
 “ lamp’s been out this half
 “ hour ; come Sir Gilbert, read
 “ on ; I hate these altercations ;
 “ come, there is the paper ; —
 “ is there any more from the
 “ little parson, my dear life ?---
 “ Damn the parson ! for a little
 “ infig-

“ insignificant turn-coat villain !
 “ there is orthodox for you with
 “ a vengeance ! there is a ca-
 “ nonical guide ! there is a pi-
 “ ous pastor ! --- he squints at
 “ Lambeth, forsooth ; his old
 “ ragged gown smells of a bi-
 “ shopric already ; --- what a
 “ passion I am in at his very
 “ name ! he rises in my sto-
 “ mach like a Scotchman !” ---
 “ Well, but Sir Gilbert, do not
 “ put yourself in a passion, it
 “ will bring the gout into your
 “ stomach.” --- “ Madam, such a
 “ man as that, is worse than
 “ the gout in my stomach and
 “ toe together ! --- he is the very
 “ bane of friendship ! --- do not
 “ mention him ; the newspa-

“ pers have done with him,
 “ as below their regard ; and
 “ he now smells as fusty as his
 “ old tarnished clothes at the
 “ French brokers. Let me see ;
 “ a list of new commissioned
 “ officers by sea and land --- I
 “ do not like that---four shil-
 “ lings in the pound must go
 “ to maintain a large army---
 “ to eat our roast beef, and de-
 “ bauch our wives and daugh-
 “ ters.”--- “ Nay, but my dear
 “ Sir Gilbert, what would be
 “ the consequence if our army
 “ was not kept up? ——— the
 “ haughty Spaniard, and the
 “ fickle Frenchman would in-
 “ sult us on our very coast.”---
 “ Why, look’ee wife, I love
 “ a

“ a foldier; I honour one; e-
 “ very true patriot ſhould; in
 “ times of danger numbers are
 “ neceſſary; but in times of
 “ peace, our very militia are
 “ enough to frighten all the
 “ crows out of the nation——
 “ now was I to form a plan”---
 “ Pſhaw! a fiddle on your plan,”
 exclaimed my lady, “ there are
 “ wiſer heads than your’s at
 “ work, I warrant.”--“Zounds,
 “ madam, when I am free from
 “ the gout, and have drank on-
 “ ly one bottle of port, I don’t
 “ believe there is a wiſer man
 “ in the nation; -- and, was I at
 “ the head of affairs”-- “ Well,
 “ and what then? what wiſe
 “ thing would you do, diſband
 “ the

“ the red coats, for fear your
 “ wife or daughters should like
 “ a pretty fellow ? Froth, all
 “ froth and nonsense ! --- Wo-
 “ men, my dear, are very ti-
 “ morous animals : the very no-
 “ tion of danger puts our whole
 “ frame into a panic. A nu-
 “ merous band is our best de-
 “ fence from surprise ; and I
 “ believe, was it put to a vote,
 “ amongst the women at least,
 “ you would find we all have
 “ a most particular veneration
 “ for a standing army !” ———
 “ Odso ! what is here ! prithee,
 “ silence, my lady--alderman--
 “ but I will finish my break-
 “ fast, or I shall be in a passion
 “ again, and lose my appetite
 “ en-

“entirely.”--“Well, well, rest
 “you there Mr. Alderman---
 “I won’t be provoked---I will
 “smother my rage--I will chew
 “the cud of my indignation--
 “who the devil would have
 “thought that this man had
 “been an absolute courtier ---
 “these muffins are as cold as
 “British spirits.”--“Well, Sir
 “Gilbert, it is your own fault;
 “I believe, on my conscience,
 “you will go mad for the good
 “of the nation.” — “Mad,
 “Bessy, no, no, thank you for
 “that; -- if I am confined, it
 “shall be in the Tower, not
 “in Bedlam; I must do some
 “good to the nation. Bessy,
 “I cannot sit down with a
 “quiet

“ quiet mind, till I have had a
 “ speech or two of mine in par-
 “ liament put in print, that the
 “ world may know I am a
 “ true South Briton ; that I will
 “ never encourage aught north
 “ of the Tweed, whilst I have a
 “ drop of English blood in my
 “ veins!—Ha, Bessy, I will get
 “ made a justice of the quorum
 “ directly, that I may take up
 “ every stroller that sings a
 “ Scotch ballad ; and if I could
 “ but collect courage enough
 “ to let off a gun, then ecod
 “ I would get advanced to be
 “ captain of the militia, which
 “ would make me of conse-
 “ quence enough to take the
 “ wall of a generalissimo; ---
 “ eh !

“ eh! Bessy, egad I think I
 “ should look well in scarlet,
 “ though this damn’d gout
 “ would spoil my marching too;
 “ and as to my looks--I wish I
 “ had taken that famous tinc-
 “ ture which was advertised
 “ the other day for taking off
 “ pimples---eh, child---ecod I
 “ will take doctor Twingum’s
 “ prescription next spring, be
 “ blooded nineteen times; take
 “ nineteen doses of strong phy-
 “ sic; and then down to Buxton
 “ or Harrowgate, to scour a-
 “ way the remainder of my
 “ guts, if I have any left.—
 “ Odso! here comes little Sage-
 “ ly; I know his wheeze on
 “ the landing-place, he always
 “ rests

“ rests there for ten or twelve
“ minutes, till he has collected
“ breath enough to pursue the
“ remainder of his journey up
“ to the dining-room.”

Mr. Sagely, you must know, is an apothecary of genteel fortune, above the world, and is consequently of eminence amongst the great world; as it is not now what people know, but what they are that recommend them;—this little son of Galen is in height exactly five feet, and about as much round; has crooked legs, a large bottle-nose, a pair of eyes immoderately large, and a mouth in proportion, with a tongue somewhat too

too long for its destined habitation ; upon the whole, in point of figure, a greater oddity never existed ; at the same time he is a great sacrificer to the altar of Venus ; intimates, that man was born to bless and cherish the daughters of Eve ; and ranks, in his own idea, as an Adonis with the fair ; is continually on the point of marriage, but often disappointed, while Hymen extinguishes the sober torch of love as often as he seemed to light it ; and, like a false deity, plays at hide and seek with every votary he enters.

“ Robert, bring a chair for
 “ the doctor—well, my good
 “ man,

“ man, I will not ask you to
 “ speak yet ; sit down, and
 “ blow your bellows a little,
 “ old boy ; odso, a necessary
 “ question must be asked ;
 “ pray doctor have you break-
 “ fasted ?” — “ This moment,
 “ Sir Gilbert ;” — “ Well, well,
 “ I say no more ; I will not
 “ press you ; --we drink bohea,
 “ and I know you drink green ;
 “ not but we could make ano-
 “ ther pot — my lady drinks
 “ bohea constantly—green, she
 “ says, is apt to fill her with
 “ wind --and wind, you know,
 “ doctor, is sometimes of dan-
 “ gerous consequences — eh !
 “ Sagely ! ha, ha, ha ! — wo-
 “ men are damn’d modest you
 “ know

“ know — no ease can be had
 “ on these occasions in public,
 “ if a person was to die for it;
 “ —an innocent alarm of this
 “ kind, would terrify a modern
 “ belle or beau as bad as the
 “ report of a cannon.” “ Oh !
 “ heavens, Sir Gilbert,” ex-
 claimed my lady, “ what are
 “ you about ? I shall swoon at
 “ your extravagance.——Mr.
 “ Sagely, for heaven’s sake stop
 “ him--you know what a man
 “ he is—Robert, give me my
 “ fan out of the window, I am
 “ quite in a consternation.—
 “ My dear Sir Gilbert, why
 “ will you alarm the modesty
 “ of the most beautiful part of
 “ the creation ? your ever-ami-
 “ able

“ able lady has the most deli-
 “ cate sensations—her nerves
 “ are respondent to the deli-
 “ cacy of her frame, and the
 “ least shock you see, undoes
 “ her—how invaluable is the
 “ blessing of such a wife! —
 “ but I do not doubt you are
 “ fully sensible of the vast ac-
 “ quisition to your happiness,
 “ in the enjoyment of one
 “ of the finest compositions
 “ throughout the whole ani-
 “ mal system of nature.” —
 “ What the devil! in the
 “ name of common sense, what
 “ means all this jargon of non-
 “ sense! — delicate sensations!
 “ — weak nerves! — animal
 “ systems! — “ Zounds! man,
 “ what

“ what a sugar-cane tongue
 “ you have, I verily believe
 “ you could talk a woman into
 “ a fever, and cure her again
 “ without so much as a single
 “ bolus or a bottle of febrifuge
 “ mixture — eh, my little Ga-
 “ len, my Hippocrates, you are
 “ looking out sharp for a wife,
 “ are you? — though you are
 “ upon a damn’d cold scent I
 “ fear, you have been so long
 “ about it — let me see, about
 “ fifty, •eh? well, well, time
 “ enough to get a young spoil-
 “ er of simples!” — “ Fy, Sir
 “ Gilbert! — still jocosé and
 “ airy! does not the gout tame
 “ you, my dear knight of Mal-
 “ ta? — will you dance at my
 “ wed-

“ wedding, Sir Gilbert ?—I be-
 “ lieve, in truth, the ladies will
 “ not let me persevere in my
 “ freedom a great while lon-
 “ ger ;—I am constantly fish’d
 “ for, I assure you—constant-
 “ ly, Sir Gilbert.”--- “ Are you
 “ my little vender of nostrums?
 “ then bid them look out sharp
 “ for a porpus.”

“ Dear Sir Gilbert,” exclaims
 my lady, “ you are an unac-
 “ countable being --- all froth,
 “ and no sentiment ; no im-
 “ provement will ever come
 “ from you to the general be-
 “ nefit of future society. ---
 “ Now doctor, was he but to
 “ pore, as we have done, by
 “ the

“ the pale light of the mid-
 “ night taper, over Lock, New-
 “ ton, and Bolingbroke, Boyle,
 “ and Plato,---how would the
 “ noble lessons have expanded
 “ and re-animated (as I may
 “ call it) his animal faculties !
 “ or, was he but to pursue na-
 “ tural philosophy to the very
 “ bottom, with proper pains
 “ and industry, he might still
 “ be of use to futurity.”---Ah!
 “ Befs ! futurity ! what will
 “ the next age do for me ? —
 “ Futurity, indeed ; I say fu-
 “ turity ! But so far I will
 “ say ; I love my country, and I
 “ respect the defenders of it ;
 “ I look upon lord George
 “ Ger——n to be a great fol-
 VOL. I. F “ dier,

“ dier, because he did not ap-
 “ prove of a German war ; --
 “ I wish I had a head as long
 “ as my lord Chatham’s, and
 “ at the same time a heart to
 “ fight withal --- look’ye, Ga-
 “ len, in a word, I love my
 “ country, and at present I can
 “ hardly take my natural rest
 “ about her.” — “ Nay, my
 “ dear Sir Gilbert, you sleep
 “ too much my love ; no soon-
 “ er in bed, but you are as
 “ dead as a herring ; he never
 “ stirs all the night, doctor ;
 “ and when I try to wake him,
 “ to take proper exercise in
 “ in the morning, it is like
 “ moving a statue from a mo-
 “ nument ; a mere dead lump
 “ — no

“ —no life in him—all mere
 “ labour in vain on my side—
 “ and when I try to coax him
 “ with a little amorous dalli-
 “ ance, he is so peevish, and so
 “ short—it is well he has a
 “ woman of my virtue -- or --”
 — “ poh ! pox of your virtue,
 “ Bessy ! -- what, you tell tales
 “ out of school, do you ? -- not
 “ fair that --- hearkee, Bessy,
 “ we have played at hide and
 “ seek long enough--one can-
 “ not last for ever child--worse
 “ for wearing, I warrant thee
 “ --eh ! little Galen ? --I thought
 “ you was in fee with my wife
 “ when you prescribed eringo-
 “ root for food, and chocolate
 “ for diet-drink --- what, one
 F 2 “ can-

“ cannot be a boy for ever, you
 “ know doctor.”—— “ Oh !
 “ Sir Gilbert, you will drive
 “ me out of the room -- I see
 “ that -- barbarous man ! -- has
 “ all my care and inquietude
 “ for your welfare and happi-
 “ ness, come to this ? ” ——
 “ Why then be quiet, Bessy,
 “ and don’t strive to make a
 “ toy of me. --- ‘Sbud, you’ll
 “ put me in a passion --- am I
 “ not a husband ! --- a noun-
 “ substantive, that ought to
 “ stand by myself ! and while
 “ I live, I am determined to
 “ stand by myself : you infer,
 “ I never move but when you
 “ put me in motion, eh ! ---
 “ give me a fillip, and set me
 “ a

“ a nodding backwards and
“ forwards like a Mandarin
“ upon a chimney-piece.”

The doctor stared, the lady wept; --- a November silence ensued; till at last the doctor recollected that he came to see Miss Molly Grubworm, the eldest daughter, who had lately arrived from visiting an aunt in the country, with a violent encrease in her shape, to London for advice: some said Miss grew fat, and should be physicked and dieted to preserve her shape; some said, it was a tympany; in short, various were the causes assigned, and various were the remedies applied, but

all without effect, and Miss was apprehended to be in imminent danger; though the prudent nurse preserved the worst from the ears of the parents, and was certain her moppet grew better.

The doctor now getting from his seat, made two reverend bows to Sir and Madam; the last homage, being to the lady, was made rather too low, for at the very instant, the string of his breeches cracked, which being heavy, fell instantly down, and exposed a large acre of his shirt-flap, and part of his posteriors, to Mr. Robert, myself, and Miss Sophy—he! he! he! cried Miss;—my lady coloured, and

and turned her head on one side, and the old knight, in whose breast pity seldom deigned to reside, was so little affected at the poor doctor's embarrassment, as to set up a loud horse-laugh, crying at the same time to his hound, who sat by him, soho! soho! Jowler; to him boy, to him; --- at last the doctor waddled to the door, and beckoned to Robert to follow, to reconnoitre his trousers, when suddenly a whole army of women and maids ran up stairs, who seized hold on the doctor as a lucky prize, and dragged him up another stair-case, before the repair could be made by the hands of Robert,

who stood in amaze. All we could hear from the doctor was,
 “ Ladies -- good women ! -- for
 “ heaven’s sake be modest ! use
 “ no violence, I beseech you !
 “ -- consider the law, ladies --
 “ assault and battery is unde-
 “ fendable --- ravishment is a
 “ notorious crime ; and I am
 “ in a free country, where da-
 “ mages are daily recovered !”

In vain he prayed ; in vain he remonstrated ; in vain he threatened ; their ears were shut to pity.—The sudden alarm that robbed them of every faculty, tended to the preservation of a distressed female above stairs, who was then so far advanced in her pregnancy as to produce
 a fine

a fine female child, in less than half an hour, which was the occasion of the sudden seizure of the doctor in his unfortunate situation, and, which afterwards afforded general mirth to the good women employed above stairs, whose pity at length got the better of their laughter, when the honest cook-maid, by the assistance of an iron-skewer, put the good doctor once more in a decent position to make his personal appearance.

It is to be observed, that this little Galen was a man-midwife, as well as an apothecary, which

I should have told you before ;
but as Miss is so lately brought
to bed, decency bids me con-
clude this, and let her rest till
the next chapter.

C H A P. V.

Several very strong Altercations on account of Miss Grubworm ; --- the Knight gets the better ; --- Nurse proves Miss to be entirely innocent ; --- a marriage proposed ; --- all made happy at last ; --- much much like the Conclusion of a modern Comedy.

TO describe the confusion of the knight and his lady, is a theme too great for the pen of a little insect like myself ; -- when I reflect what various characters, manners, persons, passions, virtues, faults, frailties, and excellencies, I am obliged to copy from, (the great

F 6

origi-

original of nature) to make a work of this kind agreeable, I tremble at my own daring ; --- the existence even of a human being, short and uncertain as it is, is too small a compass for the common observations of life ; what then am I ? a pilgrim of a few vernal months ! --- my autumn is the autumn of the year --- the leaf and I decline together --- the winter is like old age to the sons of man --- the hoary messenger of time, who wets his scythe, and points to the signal-glass to mark the decreasing sand, and whose sympathising determination accords with the last stated moment of life -- we cease together. -- Man,
I know,

I know, exels in one material point--he boasts in a large extended eternity ; this life to him is only a probationary pilgrimage ; and yet how many have I seen light and sportful as myself ; void of even the reflection of a moment ; who seemed to have no distant view, no pleasing prospect, no happier hours of everlasting felicity ; nay, no wish beyond the present moment.—We know our guide is instinct ; we obey it ; we cannot err from our great founder's first original design ; man has the voice of reason to obey ; no mute guide like ours instructs his bosom ; his love is enlightened ; his thoughts are
wrapt

wrapt in knowledge ; a divine law lives in his breast ; the voice of truth is in his heart ; the ken of distant and eternal worlds play in his fancy ; or, rather like the noon-tide sun-beam, flash glory on his eye ; whilst hope, the rosy-lipped cherub that attends the just, proclaims the prospect his ; --- if vice nor folly spread their sable and infatuating veil before his eyes, to court him to abandon the heaven-wrought harmony that never ends --- to woo the trifling pleasures of the day of life --- but I have done---my province was but to amuse --- let bolder pens regulate the instructive lay. --- Yet, reader, mark one thing ;

thing; I would not leave you worse than I found you; if I do, it shall be your own fault, for, as our easy natural poet Gay says of his play, I may say of my novel:

It has a moral, and no doubt,

You all have sense enough to find it aught.

Well, suppose the first six hours of wonder over; the knight and lady settle from extreme rage to tranquility of misery; it is an odd term, but I have felt it, and will aver it.--

“ Well, well, Beffy,” said the knight, “ I will say no more---

“ but you would always send

“ send her abroad, because she

“ made

“ made you look like an old
 “ woman, and now you see
 “ what it has come to --- but
 “ we’ll into the country to-
 “ morrow —— and if parson
 “ Short-commons, the curate,
 “ will take her for wife, you
 “ may dress her in white, send
 “ her to church as a virgin,
 “ and then no harm is done.”
 --- “ My dear life ! he is but a
 “ curate,” says the lady ; “ it is
 “ true the living is four hun-
 “ dred a year ; but you know,
 “ my dear, since we enclosed
 “ the country, the people are
 “ almost all dead, or begging
 “ about for a subsistence ; for
 “ which reason the rector al-
 “ lows him but fifteen pounds

“ a year, with the tythe-pigs
 “ and poultry ; and as to the
 “ other surplice-fees, why they
 “ are defunct; burials and mar-
 “ riages are at an end where
 “ there are no people, child! --
 “ I say, fend her into a nun-
 “ nery abroad for a time, till it
 “ is blown over — If it should
 “ get wind——the child you
 “ know is still-born -- which is
 “ a great blessing as things are.
 “ —— Come, come, second
 “ thoughts are best --- I know
 “ I was in the right, Sir Gil-
 “ bert.”--- “ Let it be so then,”
 exclaimed the knight in a pas-
 sion;--“ In the right! who the
 “ devil told you so, madam? a
 “ woman never was in the
 “ right,

“ right, nor ever will be in the
 “ right! the devil set them
 “ wrong at the beginning, and
 “ they have continued so ever
 “ since; --- send her to a nun-
 “ nery!--make a papist of her!
 “ Are you in your senses, my
 “ lady? don’t you know I hate
 “ the French? am I not as in-
 “ veterate as a Roman, to the
 “ enemies of my country? ---
 “ Zoons! madam--but I won’t
 “ be in a passion, if I can help
 “ it --- but what is become of
 “ your learning, your intel-
 “ lects, your fine sentiments
 “ now? I never knew a woman
 “ that pretended to more wit
 “ than her neighbours, but
 “ what she was a d---d flattern
 “ in

“ in her family, and a fool in
 “ her conduct ! --- Egad, ma-
 “ dam, I shall take it upon my-
 “ self to rule the roast --- I will
 “ not have all my family ruin-
 “ ed, and my fortune plun-
 “ dered by my servants, whilst
 “ you are writing invocations
 “ to Melpomene, and squatting
 “ upon a dunghill with the
 “ nine muses, or an old musty
 “ philosopher.”

“ Heavens ! Sir Gilbert ! you
 “ are disordered in your senses !
 “ your head turns --- you look
 “ wild ! -- I must ring the bell
 “ for the servants to take care
 “ of you.” --- “ Zoons, madam !
 “ do not provoke me---do not,
 “ I

“ I say---I am a desperate man
 “ --be quiet, Bessy, or I will--”
 “ What will you do? murder
 “ your wife for barely men-
 “ tioning a scheme that all the
 “ world approves! how many
 “ young ladies go to different
 “ papal countries now for edu-
 “ cation --- and what are they
 “ the worse for it? have they
 “ not people of the best talents
 “ to expand their intellectual
 “ faculties--the best dancing--
 “ the best masters of music--in
 “ short, every requisite to make
 “ a compleat--” “whore of Ba-
 “ bylon,” returned the knight:
 “ --- “ Zoons! I will bury her
 “ alive first, or marry her to
 “ Robin the postillion---a pret-
 “ ty

“ ty story truly ! much for the
 “ honour of our own country !
 “ --- to send our daughters a-
 “ broad, as if we had no edu-
 “ cation at home!---Here a fat
 “ greasy butcher, a vintner, a
 “ tallow-chandler, or an emi-
 “ nent shoe-maker, if they can
 “ give a doudy wench a brace
 “ of thoufands, ask them where
 “ Miss is--oh, Sir, she’s abroad
 “ for her education ! ---where
 “ she itays from fourteen to
 “ eighteen, except she hap-
 “ pens to bring forth a little
 “ prodigy, got by half a score
 “ rampant friars of the holy
 “ order of mendicants, and fo
 “ get turned out of the con-
 “ vent for incontineney. --- I

“ wonder we have not an act
 “ of parliament to prevent these
 “ proceedings, and make every
 “ idle couple in the bills of
 “ mortality rear their own
 “ cubs, and not bring on us a
 “ national disgrace, by expos-
 “ ing fools out of their nurse-
 “ ries.”--- “ Oh ! heavens ! you
 “ split my very head, Sir Gil-
 “ bert ! you are certainly mad ?”
 “ — If I could but put a little
 “ reason into your head, ma-
 “ dam, I should do something ;
 “ you will ask me, I suppose,
 “ for my sons, James or Charles,
 “ to travel ; no, no, we have a
 “ bear-garden at home, I thank
 “ you ; and if an English edu-
 “ cation will not entitle them to
 “ speak

“ speak at the bar--give a vote
 “ in the house -- or dance a jig
 “ at a birth-night--let them stay
 “ in the country, and shoot fly-
 “ ing as often as they please, or
 “ unkennel a fox, and hide their
 “ folly in obscurity.”

“ As soon as master comes
 “ from school, if he does not
 “ go to the university to lose
 “ his maidenhead, he is sent
 “ abroad to lose it there; where,
 “ after gazing upon towns and
 “ different nations, like a coun-
 “ try looby upon my lord
 “ mayor’s shew, or at the won-
 “ derful clock at St. Dunstan’s in
 “ the West, he gets his head
 “ emptied of the few brains he
 “ had

“ had, by frequent wonder,
“ and his pocket picked by frequent excursions; till he returns home, a convincing proof that there is, notwithstanding all reason and argument, a void in nature, and that this being had better been totally unlinked from the great chain of human affairs;--as he is now fit only to drink October, marry his mother's maid, and take a comfortable nap on the bench, as a right worshipful justice of the quorum, who very wisely lets all the little occasional affairs, I mean the necessary affairs of his neighbourhood, pass by unnoticed;
“ accord-

“ according to his wise judg-
 “ ment, he can put the ever-
 “ valuable game-laws in full
 “ force, have a whole family
 “ transported or ruined, no mat-
 “ ter which, for taking a hare ;
 “ and now and then, as a ter-
 “ ror to the neighbourhood,
 “ order an old woman to be
 “ ducked for a witch ; or a man,
 “ skilled in the black act, to be
 “ transported to Lapland, his
 “ mother-country, whilst the
 “ poor justice is most equitably
 “ thought to be no conjuror
 “ at all. — But here comes
 “ nurse : — well, nurse, has she
 “ confest ? — who has done me
 “ the honour to make me a
 “ grandfather, eh ! nurse ? —

“ Gad so, gad so, what dost
 “ snivel for? — Come, come,
 “ out with it.” — “ An it please
 “ your vorship, answered the
 “ nurse, I believe Miss is as in-
 “ nocent as a new-born babe
 “ after all — for poor thing!
 “ she purtests she never knew
 “ what man was, but once in
 “ her life, and then she said
 “ she knew not what she did
 “ — but going nine months
 “ ago to Wimbledone-Com-
 “ mon, with other folks, to
 “ see the foldiers in their best
 “ array, and their pikes in their
 “ hands, she got out of the
 “ chaise to walk by a tuft of
 “ trees, when an impudent
 “ young Scotch officer run af-
 “ ter

“ ter her, and vaist-heart ! out
 “ of roguery, I suppose, pre-
 “ sented his piece to her ; up-
 “ on which down falls Miss,
 “ and the young captain’s foot
 “ slipping at the same place,
 “ down he came too ! vaist-
 “ heart ! She then fell into a fit
 “ of the mother, and knows no
 “ more of what was done than
 “ any other parson alive—but
 “ she verily believes his piece
 “ went off for sartain, she was
 “ so mainly frightened—it could
 “ not be all for nothing.”

“ Ay ! ay, says the justice,
 “ these are the Scotch again !
 “ you see my lady, they de-
 “ vour our provisions, ravish
 “ our daughters, and no relief

“ to be had! — Gad, this will
 “ make a man valiant in spite
 “ of his teeth.” “ As for that,
 “ my dear, there are bad of all
 “ forts — I’ve known some of
 “ the Scotch very able officers,
 “ let me tell you, Sir Gilbert.”
 “ — Gad, my lady, you will
 “ provoke me.” — “ Not I, Sir
 “ Gilbert indeed! see, nurse,
 “ how your poor master’s al-
 “ ter’d.”

“ Ay, madam, replied the
 “ nurse, grief at heart makes
 “ the tongue wag — he is al-
 “ most a lunacy man, poor
 “ gentleman! one may see by
 “ his eyes what a furety pas-
 “ sion he’s in — pish on all
 “ young

“ young men, I say—was I
 “ young, not the best of ’em
 “ should ever take my affairs
 “ in hand, let ’em present
 “ what they would to me.” —
 “ Out of the room, you gabbling
 “ old fool, and you Mrs. Wife,
 “ go visit your daughter—read
 “ her a lecture, and recover
 “ your own senses—I’ll to what
 “ d’ye--call--um’s coffee-house,
 “ where I shall see the papers,
 “ and not be disturbed, as it
 “ is frequented by politicians
 “ that never talk: who wade
 “ into the cabinet thro’ seas
 “ of coffee, and settle national
 “ grievances by significant
 “ shrugs, learn’d winks, and
 “ nods of elocution.” “Nay, but

“ my dear, see the doctor first.”

“ See the doctor! see the devil

“ Madam! the doctor may be

“ d——d for me!—John, call

“ a chair—hold John—John

“ --they were all at Cornellys’s

“ till fix o’clock this morning

“ — the dogs are asleep as

“ they stand—bring out the

“ post-chaife in a minute.”

You may ask me, perhaps, where was my post; you shall know;—as I knew there would be a learned altercation, I left Robert, and settled on my lady’s laced hood, which was about three feet above her forehead, occasioned by a vast eminence, or rather a mountain of hair, real and artificial; many would think,

think, by the increase on the top of our beaux and ladies heads, that they have not room for their brains; but that is a surprising increase on the land of knowledge, I'll tell you reader; —their brains are dried, and, in order to keep the wind from entering their vacancy, they guard against the effects of Boreas with these occasional extravagances.

I continued a month longer in the family, during which time—it was twice agreed that Miss should remain a virgin as soon as she got out of the straw; —another time she was to marry the poor curate—when at

length an offer occurred which ended all disputes;—the little doctor, Mr. Sagely, being turned of fifty, was convinced from every circumstance, that Miss would be a breeder,—and knowing at the same time, her fortune would be genteel, and her family connections very desirable, and being in want of an heir to his fortune, he proposed to accept Miss from Sir Gilbert, with only the addition of a poor two thousand pounds more than he intended to give her, as an oblation to her too early sacrifices to Venus. Sir Gilbert had an eye upon quality; but being convinced the doctor was too rich to be bribed to secrecy, and
that

that he was a man of a very capital fortune and estate, and as it was now no time to make objection to their too great disparity of years, he closed, and Miss blushed a reply. The wedding was elegant, and the company genteel; Mrs. Sagely had a new coach provided, as well as a very splendid set of jewels on the occasion;—and the servants, being sufficiently bribed to eternal silence, Miss was esteemed a virtuous ornament to society, and Sir Gilbert revered as a prudent, wise man; who, forgetting that youth should be joined with youth, thought wealth a stronger cement of the chains

of wedlock, and placed a golden padlock on the mind.

How happily the new-married couple lived, I cannot say; it is now a full month since I heard of them; all I can observe, is, that I have my fears on the occasion; the honeymoon is nearly past I believe;—but let me hope the best.—So may the rosy fetters of matrimony still have power to bind.

C H A P. VI.

Change my Situation;—sit at the Head of Affairs;—make an Excursion into the Country with a strolling Company;—a sudden Wedding;—and several astonishing and momentous Affairs.

AFTER I left Sir Gilbert, fate threw me upon the foiled neckcloth of a country manager, whose name was Stormwell;—he waited on Sir Gilbert, to ask his permission to play in a little borough of his, about forty miles from London—leave was soon obtained, and no patent required.—I being, by various accidents,

made acquainted with the worthy knight's house, was at this moment dropt on a matted chair in the servants' hall, to which execrable place the hero of this chapter was conducted. The servant either smelt the lace of his weather-beaten scarlet waistcoat to be copper, or had a small suspicion of his employment, which always entitles the bearer to the most insolent familiarity from illiterate wretches, and sometimes the greatest contempt even from the very scum and refuse of mankind, which arises (if I may use the expression) from an hereditary scandal that employment bears, which, though so greatly contributing,

tributing, both to the amusement and refinement of the present age, is become most ridiculously reproachable to the wretched owner of so contemned a science; — nay, so very strange are the laws of our country in some particulars, that they seem thrown together more for private pique than public advantage; and whilst the King of Great-Britain sanctifies two houses in town with his right royal licence, yet those in the country (a few lately favoured ones excepted) are declared discouragers of virtue, the bane of sobriety, and the veriest pest to human indulgence.

It

It strangely puzzles me, —
 and I have heard, a noble lord
 once observed the same thing in
 the house, when this truly va-
 luable bill past,-- “ that, if plays
 “ are unlawful in the country,
 “ where every refinement to
 “ polish life is necessary, how
 “ very vile must the institu-
 “ tion of the two houses of
 “ iniquity be, almost within the
 “ verge of the court, and of
 “ a truly pious and reformed
 “ neighbourhood of nobility.”

Another question.--If it is rea-
 sonable to be diverted from the
 cares and solitudes of life in
 town, where even variety of
 objects form almost a continual
 amuse-

amusement, is it not absolutely as reasonable, particularly amidst the dreary horrors of a country winter, sometimes to unbend the bow, and enjoy an agreeable mixture of company, which theatrical exhibitions usually call together ; and where, from an agreeable choice of plays, the wretched may forget the heart-felt pang ; the sot despise the revel of the bowl ; the rake unknowingly reflect ; and even old age grow wiser by instruction : indeed, I see no reason for one half of the nation to rejoice, and the other half to drag on an unenjoyed and wretched life. We have plays by stealth, indeed, in most of our opulent towns ;

towns ; but what of them ? — the law clips their wings ; they are pronounced vagabonds ; and a very ragged rogue in office may insult them ; or a furly magistrate condemn them to be passed from parish to parish, like the merest felons, for daring to entertain them with superior talents, or trying to support the real wants of life honestly, by painting feelings of imaginary woes. I wish not here to admit, that every pretender should be permitted to take uninterruptedly this office, as there are many pretenders, without one grain of merit, who load the stage with real reproach ; though I dare aver,

was

was it properly encouraged, supported, and countenanced by men of true genius, England could form as many meritorious corps of comedians, as could be required for the most rational entertainments of every genteel town, during a certain term of weeks or months, according to the size, or inclination of the place for public exhibitions; nor need they rake the dungeon or the stews for performers; the life would be eligible; and as the sentiments of these people would soar beyond the mechanic, or the tradesman in general, the trading part should more than notice their superior talents by every act of civility—
and

and those in high life should occasionally distinguish these contributors to their most rational amusements : but what a digression have I made ! I must cut it short, lest it should tire the reader.

But to return to the historical part of my business.—Mr. Stormwell was in want of a few performers to compose his troop ; the press-warrants, last winter (those great proclaimers of English liberty) having frightened even Pyrrhus and Alexander from his band ;—Agamemnon, that king of kings, took to his heels, nor staid to sacrifice his lovely daughter, by which he
was

was to free the imprisoned winds.—Even Hamlet himself, dreads not to meet his father's ghost so much as the appearance of a jack-tar at the head of his blood-hunters : but, thanks to heaven, the wide-wasting war is past, and Albion now smiles in peace ; the black clouds which threatened dreadful storms, are past without a shower ; and the vallies laugh in plenty ! Her sons are now released from imprisonment — the father falls on the neck of his son, and blesses his return--the late parted friends and brothers embrace — and the brides and sisters salute the supporters of their lives, and defenders of their
humble

humble homes, so lately torn unkindly from them—the careful mother’s heart forgets the pang that heaved her sorrowing breast, when she beheld the darling of her eyes so lately torn from her weak trembling arms, without the accusation of a crime !

But to proceed : —an advertisement was published for “ ladies and gentlemen, theatrically inclined, to meet on a certain day, at the Black-Lion, in Ruffel-Street, where a gentleman would willingly receive them, and give proper encouragement to their several talents.”

The

The wished-for morning being come, various were the levees of Mr. Stormwell : — few could be of the least service, as one half of these sons of genius were the refuse of spouting-clubs ; — the ladies as absolutely mistook their talents ; here were fingers without voices ; dancers without legs ; actors without speech ; a real Richard, with a prominence on his shoulder, a cooked leg and black eye-brows ; he would rehearse a speech ; he said all his neighbours told him, he was born to beat all that went before him in that part ; but, at the same time, he would not engage without he played lord Hastings, Archer,

Archer, and Lotharius ; for he was perfect in them all, spoke them every day upon the shop-board to his fellow-apprentices, and could run over any whole act as fast as he could make a button-hole. This son of Theſpis was a taylor, I doubt an uninspired one, as Mr. Stormwell refused the least acknowledgment to his abilities, and as civilly dismissed him to his favoured garret, and person-gracing avocation.

At last, after he had accepted three, a lady stalked into the room, and made her obeisance; a fine, large, tall figure.—“ Madam, what is your talent ?” --
 “ Haughty tragedy, Sir ; —
 “ your

“ your Culista’s ; your Zaro’s ;
 “ and Alethe, in Jane Shore ;
 “ and such like parts, suits me
 “ best, Sir.” — “ Will you be
 “ seated, madam ?” “ Sir !”
 — He led her to a chair ; she
 walked with a truly Amazonian
 stride, which stretched out an
 old torn printed calico gown,
 that almost answered Congreve’s
 description of one of the vota-
 ries of the muses, carrying her
 rags to the paper-mill to be
 made into fresh ammunition for
 Thalia or Melpomene ; or some
 romantic trapes, that gives a
 goose-quill the preference to a
 needle.

The next was Jack Sentence,
 an over-grown school-boy, who
 ran

ran away from the tuition of Doctor Birch, because he would give no reasonable quarter to his posteriors; and because his two maiden aunts (his trustees) would neither make a present addition to his income abroad, nor release him from the cruel bondage of school-hours and exercises; as Parson Platform, the usher had informed them, he had not learned his grammar as he should do. He knew himself he had commenced man, having given away his taws to his junior companions, and lost his maidenhead to the cook-maid. Inspired by Dame Ignorance, more than by any lady of the Nine, Jack blunders on,
speaks

speaks tortured speeches out of modern plays, and some few old ones; swears all the modesty he ever learned was come upon him at once, as he could not speak a single word. —

“ But you need not mind, Master
 “ Playman, says he, I can speak
 “ nineteen tragedy speeches,
 “ and stand in nine attitudes;
 “ and heark o’me, ’gad I am
 “ somebody! why, my father
 “ was a ’squire himself, and a
 “ justice of the quorum, and I
 “ am fifth cousin to a member
 “ of parliament; -- besides, there
 “ now” — The rural manager,
 after having exhausted his patience with hearing him —
 dismissed what was likely to

prove no great honour to society, with the best advice he could give him---to mind his book—reverence his virgin aunts, and pay due respect to his nurse, as the only person who could form a sentiment in his impenetrable head.

The next was a young lady, to all outward appearance, extremely beautiful; but wore a dejection in her looks, that at once spoke the sensibility of the heart, and proclaimed the few hours of her life the subjects of misfortune ; — she seemed particularly fond of Belvidera, great part of which she spoke with amazing judgment ; the story
was

was either similar to her own, or the character uncommonly affecting;—as she seemed to indulge a more than usual, though at the same time a melancholy pleasure in repeating it, she was accepted, and the greatest respect paid her by Mr. Stormwell. His company being now compleat, he began to take down their names; when, to their great surprise, he found his tall heroine had made the best use of his present hour of business, as she told him in a low voice, that Mr. Thunder, his tragedyman that sat by her, had told her, it would be better for her character to pass for his wife, than to go down as a single wo-

man ; — and she, being always virtuously inclined (as far as the world could see) had agreed to pass for a married lady, especially as she thought Mrs. Thunder a pretty name, and Mr. Thunder a very pretty man ; — but hoped he would enjoin the good company to secrecy, for fear she should be made to shew a certificate, — a thing she never did in her life, although she had lived with nine different husbands, and with as much credit as the best woman could do, were she really married to them. As she was going on with a fresh declaration of her most amazing virtue and constancy, Mr. Stormwell stopped her with
an

an assurance, that her request should be granted ; and Mr. and Mrs. Thunder grace his bills in true Roman capitals as often as possibility admitted, hoping the trump of fame (tho' a brazen one) would sound their just applause.

After Mr. and Mrs. Thunder had thus happily settled preliminaries, Miss Sedgwick, the young lady, whose personal or acquired graces no one could eclipse, was asked how she would travel? she answered, “ with
 “ the rest, Sir ;” — then, madam, replied Stormwell, “ the
 “ waggon sets off at ten o'clock
 “ this evening, and we shall be

“ glad—” “ the waggon, Sir !”
 said Miss Sedgwick, who after a
 pause, said, “ I will attend you,
 “ Sir.”—She burst into tears at
 the thoughts of such a miser-
 able vehicle, but gently turned
 off, as a pain in the head she
 was subject to, was the occasion
 of her weakness ;—“ the coun-
 “ try air, madam, will be of
 “ service to you ;—we are too
 “ many to think of a chaise,—
 “ or — but you’ll find a wag-
 “ gon a very easy, though not
 “ a very expeditious mode of
 “ travelling ;——I could wish
 “ they travelled faster, Miss, I
 “ must confess, or else made
 “ longer stages ; but we cannot
 “ have all things as we would.”
 — “ Ve-

—“ Very true, Sir, replied she,
 “ — the world itself is a very
 “ troublesome vehicle at best;
 “ and truly wretched are many
 “ of those unhappy things that
 “ are inclosed in it; excuse me,
 “ Sir; you see my melancholy
 “ turn; — you must not give
 “ me parts too sprightly;—but
 “ I shall recover my spirits; I
 “ hope I shall not be always
 “ thus.” — “ Madam, I do not
 “ fear but you will do me cre-
 “ dit, at your time of life, young
 “ lady---well---it brings tears;
 “ —I have done, Miss.---Parts!
 “ ay, our new comedies will
 “ suit you to a T; ---they are
 “ so very languid, so insipidly
 “ refined, they do not require

“ the least spirit in playing;
 “ there is not one turn of hu-
 “ mour or stroke of wit, that
 “ is unpolite enough to rouse
 “ an audience from their dead
 “ sleep for the whole evening;
 “ whilst the prompter’s bell
 “ wakes them at the end of the
 “ last act, time enough to com-
 “ pose themselves as indulgent-
 “ ly in bed for the rest of the
 “ night ! --- Well, madam, at
 “ ten---” “ I will be there, Sir”
 “ -- “ Madam your servant ;” ---
 “ Sir, your’s.”

Well, at ten they met, and
 ascended up a dirty ladder, into
 a laborious machine, called a
 broad-wheel waggon, when Mr.
and

and Mrs. Thunder obligingly made room for Miss. Sedgwick on the back seat ; near the sides sat Mr. Stormwell, the manager ; an old lady he had engaged for the nurse's part, two young men, intentional heroes, a cook-maid, a turned-off postillion, and a rat-catcher, who had been at the bishop of ——'s old palace to frighten the rats, (who paid as little respect to the purity of the dwelling, as they did to the mildness of the Stilton or a Cottingham cheese, which they found there in great quantities) sat on the other side : — how he had succeeded in this venerable mansion, I know not ; but he informed us, they had intro-

duced two conjurors into the house, besides three witches and a white wizzard, but all to no purpose; and five or six times the bishop's chaplain spoke three or four terrible lines in Greek or Latin, at twelve o'clock at night, in every room in the house, which the servants say was enough to wake the dead; but it was still without effect: these old palaces will harbour such idle vermin; and who can help it; — “ what's the matter there ? ” — — — “ Oh, poor Mrs. “ Crochet, the nurse that is to “ be, is very ill ! ” — — “ Pray, “ madam, what's the matter ? ” — — “ Oh ! the wind ! the wind ! “ I shall certainly burst ! ” — — “ Pox

“ Pox o’ the wind, it is still e-
 “ nough, if you don’t raise it ;”
 — “ Oh ! it is passing about in
 “ my stomach and bowels, and
 “ I dare not try to expel it as
 “ I could do, if I was at home,
 “ for fear of giving offence ;---
 “ so pray sweetheart give me
 “ a threepenny dram of your
 “ best Coniac brandy ; that will
 “ help to allay it ;---there ; that
 “ will do ; thank you, sweet-
 “ heart ;—put the straw about
 “ my legs — nay, put it high
 “ enough — you cannot put it
 “ too high ;—for I am as cold
 “ all over as a dead herring ;--
 “ there ; there ; now you may
 “ drive on—O ! the wind ! the
 “ wind ! it will have a passage

“ do all I can !—So pray good
“ folks excuse a little mistake,
“ now and then, if it should so
“ happen.” — Ghee-o ; smack
goes the whip, and off they
drive, at which time I think it
full as adviseable to wish them a
good night, and a prosperous
journey, as to follow them a-
midst the dew of a moist even-
ing, and so close the sixth chap-
ter.

C H A P. VII.

Continuation of the Journey ; --- a Choice of three for the bridal Bed ; --- Adventures in the Night at the Inn, both tragical and comical ; --- the House untiled ; --- the Mastiff-Dog ; --- Justice not always clean ; --- in short, a great Variety of interesting, and truly memorable Accidents ; --- the End of the Journey.

THE day past without so much as one remarkable accident ; the company agreed remarkably well together ; and Mrs. Crotchet, by some means or other, had parted with the wind she had the over night complained of so much ; and had filled up the vacuum with cold beef,

beef, and now and then a dram, and now and then a pint or two of warm twopenny.

About five o'clock in the afternoon, they arrived at their destined habitation for the night, which was a large old thatched inn, six miles distant from any town; — about six o'clock they all dined off some very good neck of mutton and broth, except Miss Sedgwick, who desired she might have some tea, which was instantly complied with; — at eight o'clock they were shewn to their different apartments, when Mr. and Mrs. Thunder were conducted to the bridal bed—I won't say chamber,

ber, as there were three beds in the room ; — according to Milton—— “ he led her nothing “ loath.”—In the next bed was the waggoner, finely composed ; — the third was reserved for Mrs. Crotchet and Miss Sedgwick ; but the young lady being shocked at the appearance of such indelicacy as the taking part of a third bed in the same room, had interceded for half a bed with the niece to the landlord, who was a very sober, amiable young woman. — Mr. Stormwell and his two pupils occupied a small garret, the house being so extremely full of travellers, that every little hole was employed. After they had
enjoyed

enjoyed the sweets of rest, or whatever else you may please to call it, for about an hour, a dreadful scream was heard from the bridal chamber, as from one in immediate danger of losing her chastity ; Mr. Stormwell, fearful of any disaster befalling the females of his troop, leaped out of bed, the two young heroes followed ; the hostler, the cook, and several of the helpers from the stables, waked out of their first nap by the kitchen-fire, ran immediately into the room, --- where---O ! fatal mistake ! poor mother Crotchet, not being used to so much company in her bedchamber, had modestly put out her candle before she

(parted

parted with her clothes; but unfortunately turning herself roundabout to pull off her gown, fate directed her to John, the waggoner's bed, instead of her own; --- John having agreed with Doll, a drudge in the house, to give him her company when all was composed, --- wakened out of his first sleep, was rejoiced to think Doll had kept her word; --- and, out of pure gratitude, began to caress poor mother Crotchet with such violence she had not been used to since the death of her husband, which happened about thirty years ago, she being now sixty-eight; and had been very chaste, at least during the latter part of
her

her pilgrimage. As soon as the people with a light came into the room, she leaped out of bed on one side, and John on the other; —she called out, --- “ take notice, I am very nearly ravished! — I will have the base varlet hanged!” --- “ Marry, come up (says John) bring but a candle in your hand, and you are as safe as brandy : ---ravish you! zounds! dost think I’ll want to be witch-ridden?---Plague take you! keep your own bed--- I am sure you came to mine; ---ravish you! I was in most danger of being ravished myself I think!” --- “ Sirrah! I will have you hanged for a
“ rogue!”

“rogue!” “Well, and I will
“have you burnt for a witch;
“and so we will be right quits
“at last;---I think you ought
“ten to make me some amends,
“and ought not make fools-
“game of me for nothing!”

A short altercation was sufficient to discover the mistake, to the great mirth of all the parties; John was persuaded to go to bed; and dame Crotchet was assured of receiving no future favours from him, as both the bride and bridegroom promised her their protection: --- the manager, however, insisted on a bottle of gin for a reconciling glass, which none refused; and Mrs. Crotchet prudently

dently observed, that if any person was troubled with wind, without natural ways of expelling it, which sometimes could not be obtained without physical help, a dram of right Hollands was of infinite more efficacy than either rum, brandy, or usquebaugh; at length the company departed, and all was still for near two hours; when, unluckily for the old lady, the gin and other liquors she sipped, being of the diuretic kind, she had occasion for the pot, (which she observed stood on the next chair but one, before she put out the candle) and dire necessity obliged her once more to launch into a perilous world
out

out of a warm bed ;---she had no sooner reached the desired convenience, when, as if all good fortune had forsook her, the noise she made brought the waggoner's dog, Towser, from under his master's bed, who, being an excellent guard, suspected the old lady had a bad design on John, and clapped his strong fangs fast on poor mother Crotchet's left shoulder ; --she, suspecting it to be no less than the devil's worship, began to make most dire exclamations ; when struggling to get to the first bed she could, to awake some one to befriend her, and catching at John's bed-post, the furious beast threw her down
full

full upon her face, with the
 pewter-vase in her hand, which
 ran over John's face, and made
 its way into his bed; the briny
 flood soon awakened John, who
 cried out, "where! what the
 " devil's here! worse and worse!
 " A pretty trick by the zook-
 " ers! --- landlord laid us in a
 " room with no roof on the
 " top, and I am half-drowned
 " with rain; but an ever I stop
 " here again I will be used
 " better! --- Doll---landlord---
 " hostler---" " Bless me, cries
 " Mrs. Thunder, my dear look
 " out; see what's the matter;"
 ---" Oh! the devil! the devil!"
 cries the old lady; --- " what
 " does she say, the devil! lie
 " still,

“ still, my dear Mrs. Thunder--
 “ I exhaust my spirits so much
 “ on the stage, I cannot sum-
 “ mon fortitude at all times---
 “ lie still, I say; --- I wish it
 “ was morning --- The house
 “ must be haunted, I am sure.”
 --- He had no sooner uttered
 these words, than the hostler en-
 ters with a candle; --- “ hey!
 “ what’s to do now? you are all
 “ mad to-night in this room. I
 “ think; if these be play-folks,
 “ I hope to see none but chris-
 “ tian travellers again as long as
 “ I live.” --- Get out you devil,
 cried John, what the devil did
 your mistress put me in a room
 with all the slates off for? ---
 “ Slates off! thatch you mean!
 “ ---why,

“ ---why, it was all new done
 “ but last Shrove-tide, and is
 “ as found as a rock ;” “ you
 “ lye, you villain ! I am drown-
 “ ed!”-- “ Zoons ! master, why
 “ you have pist your bed as
 “ zure as can be---ha ! ha ! ha !
 “ what in the name of wonder
 “ have us here ? the old lady
 “ and your rough cur on the
 “ ground!---and here’s pot too !
 “ Zoons ! now you may see
 “ how it was --- she would be
 “ revenged on you for ravish-
 “ ing---hoh ! hoh ! hoh !---all
 “ is fair master John.”---John
 stares, whilst the hostler releases
 the old woman, who, with a pi-
 tiful accent, told all the circum-
 stances with so deplorable a face,
 that

that even John forgave, and joined the general laugh her ridiculous accidents had occasioned; but, in order to prevent more disorders, and to dry his storm-drenched garments, he betook himself to the kitchen-fire for the remaining part of the evening.

Four o'clock in the morning, they were all ready to march; the adventures of the night having been recited over some extremely bad bohea, with large flakes of brown bread and butter; ---Miss Sedgwick asked for a piece of toast--“toast indeed!” cries the landlady; “I say toast
“too! confound your nice guts!

VOL. I.

I

“—no;

“ --- no; we never find toast
 “ for your waggon guests, be-
 “ cause we charge the poor de-
 “ vils who have enough to do to
 “ travel at all, but four-pence a
 “ piece;—a luncheon of brown
 “ bread, and good Irish butter,
 “ did not use to be despised;---
 “ but these fine minikin misses,
 “ who have been in high keep-
 “ ing in London, by prodigal
 “ heirs, and old men that out-
 “ live their senses, imagine the
 “ world is paved as they go;---
 “ when, dear heart, their gol-
 “ den carpets are changed to
 “ common pebbles at last!”—
 “ Brute of a woman,” cried
 Miss Sedgwick, “monster, whom
 “ sin and wickedness hath hard-

“ ened, who do you talk to!
 “ —how dare you! — hence!
 “ leave the room.---Mr. Storm-
 “ well, if all I meet is to be
 “ embittered with insolence
 “ like this, I had better leave
 “ you here---I cannot bear it;
 “ ---indeed, indeed, Sir, I am
 “ not used to such treatment;
 “ I had sooner beg my bread
 “ from the hand of charity
 “ than submit to it!”

Stormwell first muttered to
 himself,--- “ poor girl, how lit-
 “ tle does she know of the Old
 “ Bailey!” — “ Madam, I will
 “ protect you; ——— hark’ee,
 “ landlady, the next time you
 “ insult your guests, and par-

“ ticularly one of our frater-
 “ nity, I shall set my foot where
 “ you may not approve of ---
 “ sure, I pay for what I have,
 “ madam ;” “ good lack ! and
 “ who are you ? a pitiful play-
 “ man !--Sirrah, sirrah, I know
 “ you all!--No longer ago than
 “ last week we had a cursed
 “ punch here, as you call him ;
 “ and what was the conse-
 “ quence, forsooth ! why, four
 “ diaper clouts, one shift, half
 “ an old shirt of my husband’s,
 “ a plated punch-ladle, a pair
 “ of slippers, and three break-
 “ fast cloths, was missed, as
 “ soon as they left my barn,
 “ with a pox to them.---We
 “ that have a reformed meet-
 “ ing

“ ing in the town, should fend
 “ such trash to the plantations,
 “ to work as they ought to do!”
 ---“ Why, hark’ee, Mrs. Score-
 “ double,” returned the mana-
 nager, “ do you compare us
 “ actors with those fellows that
 “ stroll about with a puppet-
 “ show! actors of drolls and inter-
 “ ludes! we that are the beams
 “ of the literati--the lanterns of
 “ common-sense---and the ve-
 “ hicles of erudition! ---and a-
 “ gain, madam; is it fitting for
 “ you, that proclaim yourself a
 “ methodist (where you may
 “ cheat by the practice of pie-
 “ ty); I say, is it fitting that
 “ you should mention your
 “ moral operations against us,

“ who are true protestants ---”
 “ ay! and never see the inside
 “ of a church-- (returned she)
 “ unless it is to hear your last
 “ sermon after condemnation,
 “ when you are obliged to at-
 “ tend! true protestants, in-
 “ deed! No, no; you sing
 “ hymns to the devil nightly;
 “ and rehearse the depraved
 “ wit of wicked authors, to se-
 “ duce others to sin! Give me
 “ a man that will stand fast and
 “ upright, and is able to un-
 “ dertake the great work! —
 “ What are those in the back
 “ yard, John Tapster?” “ A
 “ poor man you would not
 “ lodge, mistress, is getting up
 “ from under yon hedge with
 “ two

“ two little children ; --- you
 “ know the mother was lost in
 “ her illness for want, and found
 “ dead in the church-porch,---
 “ when it cost the churchwar-
 “ dens of the parish almost as
 “ much to bury her, as it would
 “ to have relieved her !”

“ Odds heart ! whip them
 “ out of my ground, or I shall
 “ have the rest of the wretches
 “ to bury myself, and I will
 “ have no concern with such
 “ rubbish.”

“ And this is your charity,
 “ madam, said Stormwell ? —
 “ pox take your whole con-
 “ gregation of vipers, I say ;
 I 4 “ why

“ why they will deceive a bro-
 “ ker, out-lie a lawyer, out-
 “ cant a quaker, and out-cheat
 “ the devil.—Your inspired
 “ bakers, holy butchers, fanc-
 “ tified cobblers, and zealous
 “ basket-makers, are the very
 “ pest of the earth, and ruin
 “ more honest ignorant fami-
 “ lies than a general famine!
 “ —You turn up the whites
 “ of your eyes to heaven, with
 “ mischief in your hearts; and
 “ pray constantly in public, in
 “ order to impose upon the
 “ world in private! ---Is there
 “ one honest praise-worthy
 “ action done in your whole
 “ community? --- Witness the
 “ poor man and his starving
 “ little

“ little infants (robbed lately
 “ of a fond mother) under the
 “ hedge ! Is it possible that hu-
 “ man nature should grow so
 “ depraved and hardened, as
 “ not to relieve them ! Could
 “ they ever raise their little
 “ supplicating hands in vain !
 “ --- or their poor father cry,
 “ regardless, for their morsel of
 “ relief ! Hence monster in a
 “ human form ! I have but a
 “ trifle, and it shall be theirs,
 “ to shew the difference of our
 “ persuasions ; ours generously
 “ opens the bleeding heart to
 “ all oppressed mankind -- your’s,
 “ confines your little execrable
 “ donations to wretches of your
 “ own hell-inspired principles.”

“ Heyday ! what a fermont
 “ has the fellar made ! —— I
 “ thought a playman had as
 “ little to do with religion in
 “ public as a B——p !”

“ Why look’ee, madam, I
 “ preach as feldom as a B——p,
 “ it is true, but then I understand
 “ the theory of the thing—but
 “ why do I talk with you—I
 “ despise you — let me fly to
 “ assist my fellow-creatures in
 “ distrefs.”——He run to the
 bottom of the yard to the hedge,
 and gave the poor man and his
 little starvelings two shillings,
 partly all his store. What a sa-
 tisfaction had he ! he was thank-
 ed with tears of joy from the
 tongue

tongue of man.—What delicate feelings might the rich and affluent have on the same occasion ; — how many expensive pleasures, which they pursue, yield not half the satisfaction as the more exquisite joy of relieving those whom the hand of Heaven seemed to make dependent on our bounty !

To relieve the human heart from too oppressive sorrow, is to become at once the delegates of the most High ;—a little, but a little lower at that moment, than the order of angels—Charity sets man above humanity --it exalts ! it ennobles ! it makes him at once father and monarch

over his fellow-creatures, by having power to oblige them ; — nay, he claims there what few princes can, the real sentiments of an obliged heart ! — Kings meet only the offerings of the tongue.

I have heard these very players affirm, that often in the midst of bad success, hardships, and distress, they have given up their best nights profits to the poor of the place they were then at ; and if it turned out particularly good, they seemed to part with it with a particular air of triumph and self-satisfaction ; — ought not then the man of thousands to blush ! what

a poor imperfect tale must he tell, when the treasure of this world is no more, and the late wearer of the purple raiment becomes himself a tenant of the dark inevitable grave.— Man has taught me to moralize, you see; how then can they themselves ever want reflection; —it is strange! —and though but an insect, I pity! wonder! and deplore! — The waggon being ready, they all re-assumed their own places; after having made a little gathering for the poor distressed wanderers their manager had just relieved; this double bounty, from beings almost equally distressed, might enable them to regain

gain that home their poverty hindered their retreat to, for fear of starving on their little journey.

Well, they heard the whip of John crack chearfully ; all was content and tranquillity, till another accident befel poor Mrs. Crotchet, who seemed to have become the daughter of misfortune in this her adventurous undertaking ; having unfortunately chosen a barrel of British herrings for her feat in the vehicle, by the motion of the caravan, and the weight of the lady, two hoops flew at once, the top fell in, and poor Mrs. Crotchet, following too closely,
was

was drenched up to the waist in
 a strong pickle of brine ; —her
 exclamations, and the cries of
 the enclosed—Stop ! stop ! soon
 made John sensible all was not
 well within ; —but when he ap-
 proached the waggon, and be-
 held the barrel split, and the
 strange situation of the old lady,
 he held up his hands in asto-
 nishment, and looked as wise
 as Cymon in the fable. “ Mercy
 “ on us, and send us to keep
 “ our senses ! why this old
 “ plague will be the ruin of
 “ me ; she is the very devil for
 “ fartan — why do but zee—
 “ twenty shilling will not pay
 “ the damage of this cask be-
 “ ing spoilt—come out, and be
 “ d—d

“ d——d to thee ; — if ever
 “ my waggon bears thee again
 “ I am a varlet.”—Out he pulls
 the old gentlewoman, wet thro’
 every rag with brine, some of
 the herrings sticking to her pos-
 teriors ; —“ there ! there ! cries
 “ John, this is the worst of
 “ all worsts ; --- you shall pay
 “ for it among you ; and you,
 “ madam, shall ride behind me
 “ upon old Ball, then I can
 “ watch your waters for you,
 “ and zee how you go on ; —
 “ what, I must not ruin mea-
 “ ter and fell too !”--The play-
 ers were all dumb for fear of
 damages, and poor Dame Crot-
 chet was hoisted behind John,
 a punishment bad enough for
 so

so small an offence, as the jolting of the horse, and the penetrating quality of the brine, almost flea'd the poor lady alive; — she begged hard to be reinstated; nay, urged the necessity of the thing; but John had as deaf an ear to remonstrances as his betters; --and indeed, whistled as carelessly whilst she delivered them; — at length, to her great joy, they halted to dine, where she was dried, and the fish-barrel made once more whole—and filled up with two pennyworth of salt, and some excellent green ditch-water; — secrecy on all sides was to be observed, and no more to be said. But, as if fortune was
not

not tired of her mad pranks, poor Dame Crotchet underwent another humiliating accident; — retiring after dinner to the temple of Cloacina, to pay her devoirs to that useful goddess, she being a constant votary of her's at nine in the morning, and three in the afternoon, her grandfather, grandmother, great grandmother, and so on, using those hours, she went fully prepared for the customary oblation; — the way she was directed to it was through a coal-house, very solemn and dark for the occasion; — she marched to the stated place, with a leaf of a modern tragedy in her hand, to gild as a flag of duty; — and

— and indeed, as proper a use as it deserved to be put to ; — hearing nobody stir, and all dark, she mounts the canon, and lets fly, with no small report, never being exact enough to find out the port-hole for fear of fouling her fingers, for she was extremely clean—but list ! oh ! dire mistake ! no less a person than Justice Drowsy had fallen asleep there, and received the whole fire of her artillery ; he awakened with rage at the sudden explosion, and fatal stretch thereof, seized poor mother Crotchet as the delinquent, and summoned her out to a sudden trial ; her misfortunes before were pastime to this ;—

“ out

“ out thou fuccubus, thou
 “ jesuitical whore of Babylon,
 “ sent over to poison protestant
 “ justices!—what was thy ma-
 “ lice at me! — was a person
 “ of my authority meant to be
 “ sh——t upon! dost thou
 “ know woman, I am of the
 “ quorum! see here abomina-
 “ ble wretch! what a condition
 “ I am in!---my new buckskins
 “ as yellow as an egg! — and
 “ what a stench!—ay, and the
 “ very waistcoat I wore for high
 “ sheriff thirty years ago, is
 “ entirely spoilt, lace and cloth!
 “ ---Ay; I shall recover great
 “ damages on my trial! --- art
 “ thou worth money?” ---“ No,
 “ and please your worship’s
 “ worship,

“ worship, I have not two shil-
 “ lings in the world---I am as
 “ poor as poor” --- “ Fy! what
 “ a stench! thou canst not be
 “ a protestant member by thy
 “ smell---hark’ee! are not you
 “ a catholic? have not you lived
 “ upon relicks these last sixty
 “ years of your life, and now
 “ evacuated them all at once
 “ upon a poor protestant jus-
 “ tice?”--- “ No, your honour;
 “ indeed your honour --- I saw
 “ nobody; by my truly I did
 “ not --- and as for any pesti-
 “ lent design against your wor-
 “ ship’s honour,--- I can make
 “ it appear, if I am brought to
 “ trial, I am as ignorant as your
 “ worship.” — “ Well, well,
 “ the

“ the woman speaks reason,
 “ and to the purpose.—Let me
 “ see and state the case before
 “ I bring it to a trial;—why, I
 “ shall appear as a sh——n
 “ justice, I doubt; — let it be
 “ so, if I have the law on my
 “ side — well, but it must be
 “ determined by a jury, and if
 “ they should bring it in man-
 “ slaughter only, or perhaps
 “ barely accidental, what da-
 “ mages shall I recover? if I
 “ sue the county, on account of
 “ the prisoner’s extreme pover-
 “ ty and incapability; none!
 “ no damages! -- accidental! --
 “ ay! if a piece goes off acci-
 “ dentally, and that piece was
 “ not charged on the present
 “ occasion,

“ occasion, — nor intently
 “ fired off at the person injured
 “ or affected by the explosion.
 “ Let me see ; suffocation ! can
 “ I try it that way ? --- no ; I
 “ cannot say I am absolutely
 “ suffocated ; --and if I should
 “ lose my dinner by a fit of
 “ vomiting, why I have a large
 “ carp, and some skate for sup-
 “ per ! besides, it may occasion
 “ the great blessing of a double
 “ appetite ! --- Let me see ; the
 “ old wretch trembles and sni-
 “ vels ; --- hark’ee you, Mrs.
 “ What-d’ye-callum ; if I should
 “ forgive you, that is to say,
 “ pardon you this great offence,
 “ that of casting the basest of
 “ dirt on one of his majesty’s
 “ repre-

“ representatives, can you pri-
 “ vately, I say, can you pri-
 “ vately expunge this manure
 “ from my waistcoat and vel-
 “ vet breeches? that is to say,
 “ can you make me less offen-
 “ sive?” --- “ I heartily wish I
 “ could, Sir;” --- “ well, well,
 “ go into the house, and scheme
 “ me a large napkin or table-
 “ cloth; ---and, hark’ee! do it
 “ privately---what, what! why
 “ sure, you have done private
 “ matters before now --- thou
 “ art old indeed---and my hale
 “ constitution requires a young
 “ woman--or--but make haste,
 “ and do it trimly, I say; ---do
 “ not let them see; ---I would
 “ not let the eye of suspicion
 “ squint

“squint upon me in this situ-
 “ation, for three trials of rapes,
 “and nine venison feasts !
 “Come, come ; make haite ;
 “nimble, nimble ; so, so ; —
 “thou can’st move quick e-
 “nough yet on occasion.”

I forgot to tell you that in
 the bustle I leaped on the old
 lady’s brown curls, when John
 removed her to ride behind him
 --- as I wanted to have a pro-
 spect of the country ; being, as
 you will find by this grand his-
 tory, extremely curious in every
 thing. — Mother Crotchet re-
 turns with the dining-cloth
 they had neglected to move ;
 when, after having cleaned jus-

tice Drowfy extremely well, he began to grow jocosé, and swore he would — you must think what the long dash means, as I am too modest to relate it. But she assured the justice that she had not known a man this many a day; --- and that the doctors said any quick motion whatever would do her harm, as she was very much inclined to the tympany; besides being incessantly troubled with the naughty wind, which was always roving about in her bowels, her little guts and her great ones; and concluded with begging his worship to abstain from all such things. “ Well, well, “ said the justice, go thy ways; “ not

“ not a word of the accident,
 “ and all shall be safe;--hark’ye,
 “ throw the cloth down here,
 “ and if they should miss it, I
 “ will tell them, after you are
 “ gone, it was done out of
 “ pure spite for putting too
 “ much water to your porridge
 “ — and here — here is six-
 “ pence for a glass of right
 “ Hollands, to shew you I can
 “ forgive; but, above all, be
 “ secret, woman; consider I am
 “ a great man, and must not
 “ be spoke of with disrespect
 “ on any account.”

Poor mother Crotchet, feel-
 ing the full force of the jus-
 tice’s good-nature and easy dis-
 position,

position, began to express her gratitude by humble thanks and low curtsies; but he interrupted her with--“ Well, well; less
 “ form, good woman;--plague
 “ take thee, what do’st drop
 “ me so many curtsies for?”---
 On which the old lady instantly retired.

John now whistled all to the waggon; and as Ball’s rump began to grow sore, Mrs. Crotchet was permitted to take her usual place, and off they go to their last stage. They had not left the inn above ten minutes, before they missed the tablecloth — upon immediately recollecting that they had heard
 John

John say they were show-folks, and comedy-people, they charitably concluded that they had stolen the table-cloth for a robe of innocence to clothe a vestal virgin. While they were all in this confusion, the justice walked stately into the parlour, when being entirely cleaned, except of a little bit that sat perching upon the toe of his boot, he requested the cause, and was in great fear of their pursuing the people, which must have led to a discovery of the whole affair. — “Hark’ye landlord, cried he, “what’s the matter?” — “Why, “Sir! the cursed play-folks “that dined here, have stole “my wife’s best diaper table-
 K 3 “cloth.”

“ cloth.” — “ Are you fure of
 “ it ?” — “ Yes, Sir ; I will take
 “ my oath of it :” — “ and fo
 “ will I too, fays the wife.”
 The fervants, of courfe, were
 all forced to fay the fame. “ Si-
 “ lence, good people,” exclaim-
 ed the juftice ; “ pray landlord,
 “ do you take me for a con-
 “ jurer ?” — “ Who, me !” re-
 plied the landlord, — “ I never
 “ took your worship for a con-
 “ jurer in my life ; — lack-a-
 “ day, Sir, I am a peaceable
 “ man, and fcorns to tell a lie
 “ of any body.” — “ Ay, re-
 “ plied his wife, we have
 “ known your worship from a
 “ child, little, and all your fa-
 “ mily for a many generations ;
 “ -- and

“ —and never heard of a con-
 “ jurer amongst them in all my
 “ varfal days ! --- No, Sir, my
 “ husband and I fhall do your
 “ good worship no wrong, I am
 “ fure ; --- and for your wor-
 “ ship’s being---” “ Well, fi-
 “ lence woman, and do not dif-
 “ turb the court ; —but go in-
 “ to your garden, look under
 “ a goofeberry-tree, near the
 “ coal-houfe, and there you
 “ will find your property ; you
 “ fee I am a learned man ; —
 “ it is bedunged all over with
 “ human manure, on account
 “ of your being too parfimo-
 “ nious in your common ordi-
 “ nary — how I know it, ask

“ me not ; — you see I am
“ wife.”

The justice having finished this elaborate speech,—“ Dear, “ bless your worship,” cries the landlord, “ I never knew “ your worship was so learned “ in my life before.” The family were soon convinced of their error ;—on which the justice bid them digest the thing well, before they offered to take their oaths for the future ; and to avoid all rash swearing.

And to be sure, the justice, however selfish his motives were at the present time, gave a caution highly necessary, and which
had

had been particularly illustrated in the point in question. An oath, besides the sacred appeal which the individual thereby makes to Heaven, is to be considered as the most solemn test to which any person can be brought, in order to come at truth, and to settle those disputes which so frequently arise, in such a manner, as to do justice between man and man.

An oath, therefore, ought not, by any means to be trifled with.

For this reason, there are some who are determined never to swear at all.—This is doubt-

less carrying matters to an extreme; since by such a conduct, they refuse to be brought to such a test as can best answer the end proposed and approved by the laws of their country. And though a particular sect in England are indulged in certain cases so far that their oath is dispensed with, yet in others—the most material — this particularity or obstinacy, call it which you please, is justly excepted against;—a circumstance worthy of observation.

But, without arguing in this manner, thinking men must allow, that though it is necessary for men sometimes to be called

to the test of an oath, yet oaths are too often exacted, and with too little solemnity, to render them so binding as they ought to be, in order to fulfil the grand purpose for which they are administered.

If any one doubts the first proposition, let him consider the oaths required to be taken by persons in the customs and some other departments, reflect *how they* are kept, and descant on the propriety of them.

If the second proposition is doubted, let those who call it in question, only attend our courts of justice, observe what

K 6

passes,

passes, and they will be convinced of its propriety.

Shilling warrants also and their appendages, perhaps encourage too much this practice of (what we must not *call*) *common swearing*.

Now, to do *justice* to the justice (though as the reader will perceive) he was not a man of great sagacity, yet he was strongly tinctured with the opinion delivered above, and would in virtue of his authority, put many questions to persons brought before him in some particular situations, previous to
his

his suffering them to be sworn. Among the multiplicity of those questions, tho' some might not be altogether so necessary, yet others, at times, came home to the point, and operated eventually to prevent a perjury.

More than once, this worthy magistrate has intercepted the oath, as it were, just quivering on the lips of a girl who had been suborned to swear the fruit of her womb — not to its author—but to a person whom private reasons render more eligible. Justice Drowsy has frequently received due praise upon such occasions. It was, however, only when all his faculties

ties were awake, that he was capable of such exertions.

The justice had scarcely ended his lecture, and settled the important matter above related, when another company arrived, which put the landlady into a sort of bustle. No less a personage than Mr. Deputy Candlewick and his consort, who had insisted on accompanying him, as well as a lad their son—the hope of the family—arrived in a post-chaise on their route, in search of the deputy's daughter, who had thought fit to elope with a young fellow his clerk, on a matrimonial excursion. On enquiry, it turned out, that
the

the landlord had seen just such a couple there the last evening, and that they had hired a vehicle, which had returned, after very late travelling.

In consequence of this information, it was intended to question the driver; but as he was not in the way, no other satisfaction could be obtained than that the landlady had heard him say when he returned, that he had set down the gentleman and lady, by their express order, at a little house in the outskirt of the town, whither he was engaged to carry them, while he proceeded to the capital inn for refreshment.

Mr.

Mr. Candlewick was for proceeding immediately, after taking a bit of bread and a glass of wine; but to this his lady objected, as she said she wanted an hour or two of rest, and something like a repast, having travelled hard. — “Ay! (said “ Mr. Deputy) but whose fault “ was that? You knew I did “ not desire you to take that “ trouble” — “Oh! you did “ not; but *I* found it necessary “ to trouble myself about what “ concerned *my* daughter. It “ was highly proper I should “ come along with you.”—— “ Yes! and that the boy should “ be lugged along with us too; “ in order to increase the load,
“ and

“ and to make every thing as
“ cumbersome as possible,
“ when we were upon a jour-
“ ney that required expedi-
“ tion.” — “ Ay, Mr. Candle-
“ wick ; but then if you
“ had come without *me*, you
“ would have made more
“ haste than good speed, I
“ don’t doubt. I could not
“ trust you, as you’re always
“ doing some foolish thing or
“ another : I say, I could not
“ trust you in what related to
“ *my* daughter.” — “ Zounds,
“ madam ! (said the deputy, in
“ an exalted voice) Is not she
“ *my* daughter too ? And pray
“ what would you in *your* wif-
“ dom do, if you should over-
“ take

“ take them ? what could you
“ do better than to bring them
“ back again ? And, I suppose
“ I am capable of that ; am I
“ not ? But, at the rate you
“ propose, we shall never be
“ likely to overtake them at
“ all.”—“ I do not know what
“ you are capable of, not I—
“ but (replied the lady) as to
“ what I would do, that re-
“ mains to be seen. I am as
“ willing as you to proceed
“ with all proper expedition,
“ but not so as to faint by the
“ way, which will certainly be
“ the case if we go without
“ necessary refreshment. And
“ what must Sammy do ? Poor
“ boy !

“ boy! he is ready to sink al-
 “ ready.”

Thus the altercation stood, when Sammy, who was a complete looby, and almost a Tony Lumpkin in every thing but shrewdness, strengthened his mother's party, complained of his stomach, &c. and concluded with blubbering.

“ Yes, you may cry, child,
 “ resumed Mrs. Candlewick,
 “ but little your father minds
 “ you. If we were both dead,
 “ he would not care. But we'll
 “ live to spite him.”—“ True!
 “ that seems to be the purpose
 “ of your lives (replied the de-
 “ puty)

“ puty) you mean to bring up
 “ the boy as finely as you have
 “ done the girl. It is to *your*
 “ lessons, I conclude, that we
 “ owe this misfortune.”

But Mrs. Candlewick totally
 denied that her husband had
 any judgment in this matter.—
 “ If the girl has done wrong,
 “ (argued she) it is owing to
 “ her *forwardness* and *froward-*
 “ *ness*: if she has any thing
 “ good in her, it is learned
 “ from *me*; all that is bad, it is
 “ plain is your’s and her own.”

The deputy replied; the lady
 rejoined; and they were pro-
 ceeding to high words, when
 the

landlord asked them whether they would please to *want* any thing; and he having received orders for a bottle of wine and some cakes, the landlady, after dropping a curtsy, and making some apologies for speaking, begged leave to observe, that as she had a good larder, she could toss up something nice for her guests in a hurry; which she said might have been nearly done during the time that they were speaking, if as how she had had their commands; not that she would wish to detain any body that was in haste (she said) but only she thought the gentlefolks might as well take a little bit, to strengthen them;

them ; and besides, in the mean time, Jonathan the post-boy, who had drove the young couple, might possibly return and give their honours better information.

The good woman had perceived in the course of the matrimonial conversation, that “ the grey mare was the better horse ;”—and besides, the last argument had some weight with the deputy, as had also certain calls of appetite to which he was subject as well as his comfort ;—so that a truce of tongues being now concluded, some lamb-chops and other little matters were ordered, and presently

ly got ready, to their mutual satisfaction.

While this good family were busied in emptying their plates, in order to fill their stomachs, Justice Drowsy, who sat smoking his pipe and drinking his *quantum* of ale in the room behind the bar, having previously whispered the landlady that he had some knowledge of Mr. Deputy Candlewick, took the opportunity of gratifying her by particular request, with some out-lines of his history, in the following manner.

“ Mr. Candlewick (said he)
 “ is of a birth so obscure, that
 “ the

“ the world fays, he cannot
 “ trace his own parentage. All
 “ that is known of him is, that
 “ he was brought up at Shrewf-
 “ bury by a gentleman whom
 “ the cenforious, as there
 “ always will be fuch, pro-
 “ nounced to be his father : —
 “ But this the aforefaid gentle-
 “ man always contradicted, and
 “ on his death-bed, though he
 “ left him a fufficiency for
 “ maintaining and educating
 “ him during his infant ftate,
 “ yet he continued his affer-
 “ tions, and declared was a
 “ foundling, whom he took
 “ up in one of the Welch
 “ counties.

“ This

“ This foundling, however,
 “ proved a *fortunate one*. Tho’
 “ he was very backward in
 “ taking his learning, yet his
 “ lot turned out to be very
 “ lucky. He chose to go into
 “ service with a tradesman of
 “ the name of Gildon, at
 “ Shrewsbury. His master hav-
 “ ing concerns with a broker
 “ at London, the former dy-
 “ ing, the latter came down to
 “ take possession of the effects,
 “ which were left intirely to
 “ him. This gentleman hap-
 “ pened to take notice of young
 “ Timothy as he was called,
 “ and proposed taking him to
 “ London. Timothy was pleas-
 “ ed with the thought of the
 VOL. I. L “ jour-

“ journey, and willing to try
 “ his fortune with this new
 “ master. He was according-
 “ ly taken to town by Mr. Gil-
 “ don.—I must tell you, good
 “ folks, that prejudices are very
 “ strong in some people :—this
 “ was the case with Gildon ;
 “ he took an unaccountable
 “ liking to Timothy, who, as
 “ far as I could learn, had no
 “ particular excellencies that
 “ might be deemed to deserve
 “ it.

“ However that was, this
 “ lad was admitted to fill the
 “ office of clerk, and (not to
 “ dwell long upon particulars)
 “ a little before his articked
 8 “ time

“ time was expired, he ran
 “ away with his master’s niece.
 “ There was a stolen wedding
 “ made up, and as the girl was
 “ the old gentleman’s nearest
 “ of kin, after a few angry
 “ words, and holding off a lit-
 “ tle, for form’s sake, he gave
 “ his consent to what could not
 “ be remedied, together with
 “ his blessing, and a small for-
 “ tune, which he promised to
 “ make additions according to
 “ the future merits of the par-
 “ ties. This was Mr. Candle-
 “ wick’s first wife, who never
 “ bore him any children, tho’
 “ he was married to her up-
 “ wards of five years. She
 “ lived long enough to inherit

“ all her uncle had to leave,
 “ and died time enough to leave
 “ this child of fortune a young
 “ widower, in possession of a
 “ considerable capital, and his
 “ former master’s business.

“ The lady had not been
 “ dead a twelvemonth before
 “ Mr. Candlewick cast his eyes
 “ upon Miss Flint, the daughter
 “ of an eminent pawn-
 “ broker, who had retired from
 “ business, and was able and
 “ willing to give his girl a good
 “ fortune. It happened that
 “ the suitor found favour both
 “ in the sight of Miss Flint
 “ and of her parents, with whose
 “ consent he married her, and
 I “ received

“ received some thousands of
 “ pounds, in order to render
 “ the marriage-state happy. It
 “ cannot be said to have been
 “ completely so, as this Mrs.
 “ Candlewick possesses much
 “ more of what is generally
 “ termed spirit, than the for-
 “ mer ever pretended to, and a
 “ great share of which her hus-
 “ band could certainly dispense
 “ with. But, as she has brought
 “ him children, which he want-
 “ ed, a fortune, to which he had
 “ no objection, and he has more
 “ in expectation from the same
 “ quarter, the good man, tho’
 “ he now and then talks high,
 “ yet generally gives way where
 “ all his domestic peace and

“ future interest seem to be
 “ so greatly concerned.

“ Such are Mr. and Mrs.
 “ Candlewick, whose son, as
 “ perhaps you will think, if
 “ you have penetration, is a
 “ booby. The daughter, of
 “ whom they complain for the
 “ hasty step she has just now
 “ taken, I saw when I was in
 “ London last winter, being
 “ acquainted at the house. She
 “ is a handsome girl, and much
 “ the most sensible of the fa-
 “ mily. Though very young,
 “ she was always esteemed pru-
 “ dent : and the clerk, as I find
 “ by the discourse of the par-
 “ ties, is a youth who was then
 “ with

“ with them ; he is descended
 “ of reputable parents, and al-
 “ ways bore a good character.
 “ I can also say this for him,
 “ that he is a good-natured fel-
 “ fellow, and a jovial compa-
 “ nion.

“ So if you will take my
 “ judgment of the matter, and
 “ I think you need not doubt
 “ it — I do not see that any
 “ great harm is done if the
 “ couple are joined. — And as
 “ to the young man’s running
 “ away with the girl, it is but
 “ what Mr. Candlewick, when
 “ himself a clerk, though now
 “ a deputy of his ward, as
 “ I have told you, did before
 L 4 “ him.

“ him.—*Like to like.*—And so
 “ my good friends here’s to
 “ you; for I have talked till I
 “ am plaguy thirsty.”

The landlord and landlady
 thanked the magistrate for the
 information he had given them,
 and could not but declare them-
 selves to be of the same opi-
 nion with so wise a man as the
 justice. — As to our good hos-
 tefs, she farther observed, that
she thought, there was some-
 thing mean about Mr. Candle-
 wick as soon as she set eyes upon
 him. Now, though this was
 not true, yet she conceived the
 remark would do credit to her
 judgment.—These are a sort of
 side-

side-wind compliment, which many people pay themselves on such occasions.

The landlord, not to be behind-hand with his rib, said he had always in his mind that which gave him an *item* of the same sort too, adding, That there was a something quite disagreeable in the appearance of people who had been low—upstart gentry—that he could always distinguish.

The justice gave this good couple apparent credit for their observations, in which, however, he had really little belief. The justice himself was one
who,

who, according to the common phrase, “ had risen from nothing,” which they might recollect, as he had been for a long time acquainted with them, and had no reason to complain of their want of deference to him—and he was likewise well assured, that they spoke respectfully of him in their way, even behind his back, which is the true sign of sincerity. — But, to return to my story.

The worthy magistrate had just given his assent to these observations, when Jonathan the driver returned. He was immediately called in, and interrogated with respect to Miss
Candle-

Candlewick and her paramour; when he gave the same account the landlord had delivered to the new guest, as already recited, with the addition of their having stopped at a place near the meeting of two cross-country roads. This circumstance he was desired to relate to the old gentleman in its fullest extent, and to exaggerate on the little likelihood of their being overtaken, in case of a farther pursuit; Justice Drowsy heartily wishing them well, and the landlady declaring “ it would
 “ be a pity to part the young
 “ things ;” especially as, by what had been gathered from the young cub, there appeared
 a de-

a design of marrying his sister to an old crabbed fellow with only one eye, which was open to every body's faults but his own.

The justice succeeded ;—Mr. Candlewick and his family gave over the pursuit, and resolved to return home, after having been persuaded to stay that night at the inn, in order completely to rest themselves.

It seems that Miss Candlewick and her lover were happily married, in consequence of the afore said resolution, and were reconciled in due time to the lady's parents and relations.

Just

Just as the old gentleman and his consort had come to a determination, a countryman rode into the yard for Mrs. Crotchet's bundle, which she had forgot.

For Mrs. Crotchet, though she boasted of having been formerly blessed with a great memory, yet seemed to have been deprived of that blessing, provided she did not exaggerate in this matter.——But indeed she was, in many respects, to be numbered with the *Have-beens*, a family of the greatest antiquity both in this and every other country.

If

If it was really true that Mrs. Crotchet had once possessed so good a memory ; her loss of it was not owing to the decay of age, but rather to a cause to which Cicero of old ascribed such defects ; namely, the not exercising it.—For she was frequently careless of what related to herself ; though she was apt enough, at times, to pry into the concerns of other people, being actuated by that strong principle in females, called Curiosity. Of this disposition, instances will be found in the sequel of this history. — But to return.—

This

This forgetfulness was happy for me, as I had made an excursion to the bundle, in order to be ready for changing my quarters, not greatly liking the old lady.—It was no less happy also for the reader, as it gave me an opportunity of seeing the catastrophe of this affair--which will enable me to pursue my journey without closing these memoirs before the sequel to my history, which shall be faithfully recorded in the next volume.

THE END OF VOL. I.